Workers of the World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. XI.—No. 40. NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1947. 9 PRICE: FIVE CENTS

No Hope in Marshall Plan For Hungry People Abroad

See Page 3

PRICE-GOUGERS FEAR NEW WAGE DRIVE

Hickman's Freedom Sought in Chicago

Mass Meeting Backs Defense; Trial Postponed Until Oct. 27

CHICAGO, Sept. 28 — Today's Hickman Defense Rally, attended by almost 1200 people at the Metropolitan CommunityChurch, roared approval to a resolution demanding that the States Attorney drop the murder charges against James Hickman and free him "since he is guilty of no crime other than the love of his family and a sense of decency."

The trial of Hickman, who shot his landlord because he held him responsible for the death of Hickman's four children in a fire last winter, was scheduled to begin tomorrow but has been postponed until Oct. 27.

One of the chief speakers today was Willard Motley, author of the best-selling novel, "Knock on Any Door," and of a moving appeal for the defense of Hickman (printed in the Sept. 22 Militant). He attacked "our social system which puts profits above human welfare" as the chief cause of such tragedies as the Hickman case.

Motley also lashed out at such "rich liberals as Marshall Field, who talk out of both sides of their mouths" and cannot be relied on. He described his meeting with the publisher of the Chicago Sun, and Field's, refusal to print Motley's appeal for Hickman even as a paid advertisement. He urged the oppressed not to depend on these self-styled liberals, but to organize into tenants unions and join militant labor organizations.

M. J. Myer, one of the three attorneys retained by the Hickman Defense Committee, also spoke: "It is not Hickman who should be on trial, but the inhuman landlords and real estate interests who sacrifice human lives for profit, for they are the real criminals. They are the people who should be put behind bars and kept there."

The collection taken at the meeting to finance the Hickman defense work came to $500. $100 of this was received from Patrick Gorman, secretary of the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen; a similar sum was pledged by Vice-President Philip Weightman for the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, who was on the platform representing UPWA President Ralph Helstein. Along with several other union leaders, Gorman and Helstein have joined the Hickman Defense Committee.

Mrs. Hickman thanked the committee for the great work it is doing on behalf of her husband and in the fight against inadequate housing and restrictive covenants.

The chairman also introduced Michael Bartell, local chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, and Gerald Bullock, chairman of the Chicago chapter of CORE, and commended them for their splendid work in the campaign.

The Communist Party also played a role connected with the meeting. They stood outside the church selling copies of their book, "The Great Conspiracy," which is a long slanderous and repeatedly discredited attack on Trotsky and the Trotskyists.

The Hickman Defense Committee plans to intensify its efforts to win freedom for Hickman during the coming month. It is urging all organizations to adopt resolutions on the case and send financial support to its offices at 4619 South Parkway, Chicago 15, Illinois.

Harold Russell Hits Hickman Case Causes

CHICAGO — Harold Russell, Academy Award winner for his portrayal of the Navy veteran in The Best Years of Our Lives, declared after endorsing the work of the Hickman Defense Committee:

"The injustices and human suffering that can be brought about because of inadequate housing, firetrap tenements, congested ghettos, the vicious practices of restrictive covenants, can scarcely be more graphically illustrated than in the tragic case of James Hickman."

AFL Group Demands Labor Party

Santa Cruz Council Asks Immediate Action

SANTA CRUZ, Calif., Sept. 29 — A resolution advocating the formation of a Labor Party has been submitted by the Santa Cruz AFL Central Labor Council to the national convention of the AFL which will be held in San Francisco next week.

The resolution takes as its point of departure the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act which is aimed at "the weakening and smashing of unions and the driving downward of the workers' standard of living in order to make bigger profits."

It declares that the passage of this law presents a host of new problems to labor and "demands the entrance of the AFL into politics, where labor has a powerful weapon in 37 million votes."

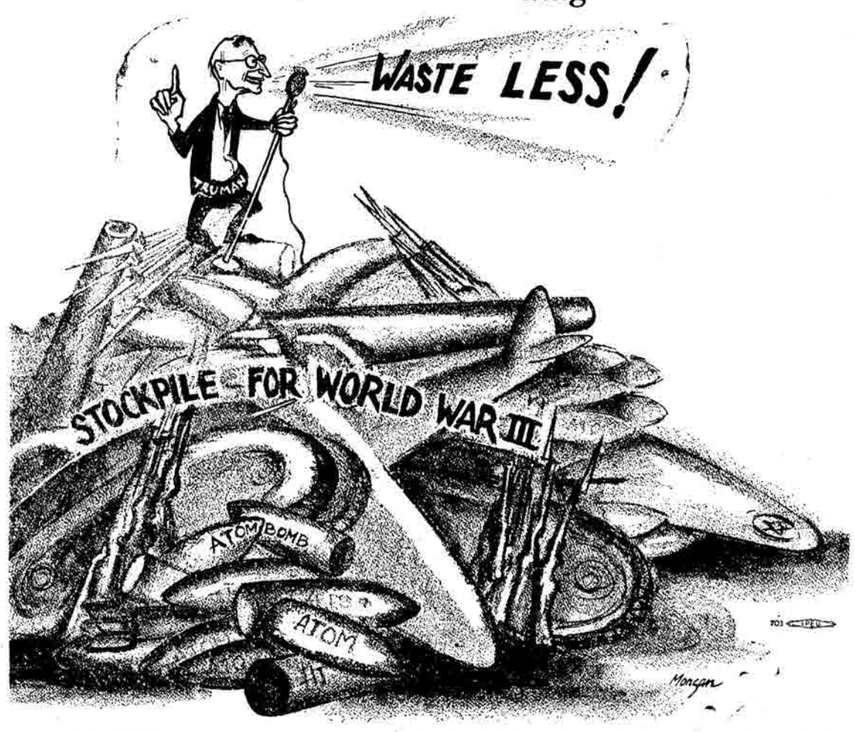
"The need of the day is for labor to enter politics in an organized fashion by entering its own candidates and organizing labor's own party, if it is to survive and progress."

The resolution then advocates that the AFL Convention go on record to amend Article 3, Section 9 of the AFL Constitution to read as follows:

"The AFL nationally and locally shall enter into the building of a political party by and for labor, based upon a program of labor's needs and interests."

It also calls on the AFL to hold national and state conferences, inviting all of organized labor to participate, to draft a political action program immediately.

Look Who's Talking



CP Domination Fought At CIO Maritime Convention

NEW YORK, Oct. 1 — The Stalinists are getting a taste of trade union democracy at the sixth convention of the CIO National Maritime Union and don't find it to their liking. At previous conventions they rode roughshod over any and all opposition. The convention gatherings were converted into a sounding board for the prevailing Communist Party line. No discordant note was permitted to mar the proceedings. But things have changed!

The extent of this change is indicated by the concluding section of President Joseph Curran's report to the convention which dealt with the role of the Stalinists in the union. Curran flayed the wartime unconditional surrender policy of the Communist Party and charged that the effect of their policies "weakened our union and aided the shipowners."

He castigated the CP for trying to put over the permanent no-strike pledge, for preaching that "the shipowners were our friends," and that strikes were out of date. These same people, Curran asserted, "had the colossal gall to even propose the elimination of our strike fund, as no longer necessary."

In the following words, Curran summarized what would have happened to the NMU if the CP had succeeded in putting over their full program at the previous convention:

"With our militance and fighting organization eaten away at the core, and with our strike fund gone, the shipowners would have been able to ride roughshod over our union, our wages and conditions. Not only could we not have won the many gains that we did in the past two years, but we would have been unable to even fight for them at all."

In addition to exposing their reactionary record, Curran blasted the Stalinists for their method of smearing, slandering and framing opponents. He accused them of fostering race prejudice and national division in the ranks of the union. When he concluded this section of his report a substantial section of the convention delegates expressed their approval by prolonged applause.

There will be no steamrollering at this convention. The Curran group is organized in a "rank and file" caucus which has been able to win a majority on most of the convention committees. The Stalinist cries for "unity" have been brushed aside as so much demagogy. Neither group commands a decisive majority. The relationship of forces will become clearer when some of the controversial questions come before the convention.

So far, the first nine days of the convention have been taken up with the election of committees and officers reports. The real fireworks will come later.

JOSEPH CURRAN

A Gold-Dusted Omelet

Do you get that harassed feeling when you see the latest price tag on eggs? Don't blame the hen. She's doing her best to keep up with demand. The blame lies squarely with the Republicans and Democrats who passed a federal law requiring the government to keep up the price of eggs by buying them whenever the price dips below what is called "parity."

The government doesn't eat the eggs. They dry enormous quantities and store the powder away. What isn't dried is frozen in slabs and placed in deep freeze.

Altogether, the government this year bought up 300,000,000 dozen eggs. Even after selling half these eggs to England, the government still has on hand about $60,000,000 worth.

So long as Republicans and Democrats monopolize the government there's little chance for the public to get these eggs at bargain prices. The food trust saw to it that a provision was included to bar the government from selling eggs to the taxpayers below market price.

So the consumer is caught in the squeeze. If egg production increases enough to bring down prices, the government promptly buys up the surplus. No matter how you scramble it, it makes a gold-dusted omelet.

Cost-of-Living Bonus Needed to Protect Workers Standards

Big Business fears a new union wage drive as the greatest immediate threat to its profits, swollen phenomenally by high prices.

Washington has launched a preventive campaign against any wage drive with direct and flank attacks on possible wage demands.

Republican spokesmen like Taft and Stassen have called openly for a wage freeze. Administration and Congressional price-"probers" are trying to whitewash corporation profiteering, the real source of high prices. The capitalist press is again screaming that "higher wages will skyrocket prices."

A major aim of the Truman-Taft "Waste Less—Eat Less" program is to spread the impression that the workers are getting too much money, which they are spending for lavish living, thus bidding up prices on food and other necessities.

This frenzied campaign against higher wages, even before any wage drive has begun, is a tip-off to labor on what the profiteers fear as the most effective immediate answer to their price-gouging.

Their fears are aggravated by the knowledge that in any new wage drive the workers may demand not only flat wage increases, but additional protection against rising prices in the form of cost-of-living bonuses.

Such cost-of-living bonuses would be paid on a regular and adjustable basis, automatically rising in direct proportion to any increases in the cost of living. They would supplement basic wages and maintain real wages.

This is the only realistic and effective defense that the workers can use immediately to protect their standard of living. It is a weapon that will strike sharp and true to the heart of high prices — high profits.

The top trade union leaders are the principle obstacle to a militant defense of labor's living standards through a fight for higher wages and the cost-of-living bonus. As they have done before at each new high level of price inflation, they are trying to side-track a wage struggle.

The CIO 7-point program on prices, issued last week in the form of an appeal to Truman's Council of Economic Advisors, says not one word on wages. It repeats its futile plea, voiced time and again over the past four years, for "price control" by the capitalist government.

Once more the CIO leaders place dependence on a government of Big Business to halt the thievery of the monopolists. But they are silent on the only way to break the power of the private monopolies — by expropriation, government seizure and nationalization of the basic industries and their operation under workers control.

The CIO leaders descend to absurdity when they ask Truman to call a meeting of the big industrialists and "place before them the danger confronting the nation" through profiteer-inflation. These wolves have already given the big laugh to Truman's plea to "restrain yourselves."

Wall Street's agents in Washington won't halt price-robbery. But the action of the workers can. And the first big action must come on the wage front to win higher wages, supplemented and protected by the cost-of-living bonus.

The Man for the Job

Heading Truman's Citizens Food Committee, which is organizing the pressure campaign on the American people to "Waste Less—Eat Less," is Charles Luckman.

He is the big soap and food magnate, president of Lever Bros., leading soap concern and owner of the subsidiary that manufactures Lipton's Teas and canned soups.

On Sept. 29, just after Luckman assumed his new post, Lever Bros. raised soap prices another 10¢.

TRUMAN ECHOES TAFT "EAT LESS" PROGRAM

Truman has discovered the reason for high food prices. Strangely enough, it's the same as Taft's. According to these political agents of Wall Street, the people are eating too much. They are wallowing in fat living.

Truman last week announced his remedy—"Waste Less." Taft said it more bluntly — "Eat Less."

While the workers are clamoring for lower prices so that they can feed their families adequately, Truman and Taft tell them to pull in their belts still more.

This advice—it is really a threat—comes as health authorities report the growing menace to health because people can't buy enough of the right kind of food at today's prices.

New York City Commissioner of Hospitals Edward M. Bernecker said in a special report last week to Mayor O'Dwyer: "So sharp has been the impact of present rising food costs that it is causing the deepest concern among the doctors, nurses and social workers."

The present trend of high prices, Bernecker added, creates the "grave danger that the health of large segments of our population will deteriorate."

Commissioner of Health Israel Weinstein told O'Dwyer that "for months and in steadily rising crescendo, mothers who bring their children to our health stations have complained that they simply cannot afford to buy proper food for their youngsters."

He revealed that for the average family of four, the cost of a minimum adequate diet for a week is now $30.07, or 27% higher than a year ago. It is to this average worker's family, which cannot even now maintain a minimum health diet, that Truman issues his insulting and brutal command to "Waste Less" — meaning "Eat Less."

Yes, there is too much waste — but Truman directs his order at the wrong people. The real wasters and hogs are the rich profiteers. They are enjoying super-luxury. But Truman is not putting on a big drive to cut down the profits of the monopolists, to end their swinish living.

Yes, there is too much waste — when the government buys up millions of dozens of eggs at fantastic prices and hoards them until they spoil — to keep egg prices up. Or buys up millions of bushels of potatoes and pours gasoline over them and burns them.

Yes, there is too much waste — a trillion dollars worth of waste in the Second Imperialist World War. And this is nothing compared to the waste of the next war — the atomic war — that Truman is now preparing by wasting tens of billions annually for military purposes.

Waste less, we say, by kicking out the monopoly profiteers and warmongers.

Members of Johnson Group Resign from WP and Join SWP

By William F. Warde

The members of the Johnson-Forest Group, who were formerly affiliated with the Workers Party, last week issued a declaration applying for membership in the Socialist Workers Party. In accord with a resolution adopted by the SWP National Committee, they have now been accepted into the SWP with full membership rights, effective Oct. 1.

In joining the SWP, the members of the Johnson-Forest Group announced their acceptance of the conditions laid down in the March 11 Joint Statement on Unification adopted by the SWP and WP.

The SWP resolution took note of the fact that immediately after the signing of this Joint Statement "the majority of the leadership of the WP pursued a policy and a course of conduct in violation of the spirit of the Joint Statement and thereby obstructed the collaboration between the two parties and prevented the projected consummation of the unity up till this time.

"Simultaneously, the violent and unjustified factional struggle waged by the majority of the leadership of the WP against the pro-unity Johnson-Forest minority cast doubt on the good faith of the signers of the Joint Statement and still further hampered and obstructed the development towards unity."

The Johnson-Forest Group declared that its members had "long wanted to join the SWP despite the difference of opinion on some questions which we have frankly stated in a number of documents, but hitherto refrained from doing so in the expectation that a general unification (of the SWP and WP) would soon be effected.

"The failure of the leadership of the WP to effect the unification on the terms agreed upon with the SWP obliged us to take this step toward unification on our own account."

The SWP resolution authorizing the admission of the Johnson-Forest Group members, "without prejudice to further negotiations with the WP and the eventual execution of the Joint Statement," is printed on Page 4 of this issue along with the application for membership signed by the members of the Johnson-Forest Group.

The SWP welcomes the entry of these comrades as serious, disciplined and devoted party members. We are sure that they will contribute fully their efforts and abilities to the crucial task of building the party of socialist revolution in this country.

Local Groups Map New Road for PAC-CIO

A widening gap is appearing between the political policies of the top union leaders and the local union ranks. This is becoming most obvious in the CIO Political Action Committee.

The CIO big-wigs are trying to piece together the tatters of their old "reward your friends and punish your enemies" policy. Their toughest job right now is trying to dig up some Democratic Party politicians whom they can reasonably palm off as "friends of labor."

But the rank and file are showing no eagerness to return to the role of political sheep filing meekly into the Democratic fold. The demand for the formation of an independent labor party is growing more insistent. Every week, more local unions join the ranks of the hundreds that have already passed resolutions to build a labor party now.

The sentiment for genuine independent labor political action is finding concrete expression in local election campaigns. This is shown by the growing movement among local CIO unions and PAC groups to run their own labor candidates against both Democrats and Republicans.

This movement has reached its most advanced stage to date in the key industrial state of Ohio. CIO unions and PAC groups in Dayton, Youngstown and Cleveland are currently backing prominent unionists as independent candidates for city office. One or two successes in these campaigns will almost certainly inspire similar campaigns in other Ohio industrial centers and in neighboring states like Michigan and Pennsylvania.

SOLE ARGUMENT

The disgust of the workers with the Democratic Party is now so strong that PAC-CIO leaders do not dare to defend that party as such. They bend to the pressure sufficiently to admit that a "third party" or a labor party would be a good thing and is desirable. Their sole argument against a labor party is that "now is not the time."

This age-worn excuse was repeated last week by Jack Kroll, national director of PAC-CIO, at the CIO United Electrical Workers convention in Boston. He said he saw no "practical possibility" for launching a third party before the next national elections. He declared he would like to see a labor party formed as a "long-range objective" but "how or when" he didn't have the faintest idea.

COWARDLY ALIBI

This evasive and cowardly alibi has been repeated by the union leaders since 1936. It was the argument when the CIO workers demanded their own party and Lewis gave them Labor's Non-Partisan League as a chance to vote "independently" for Roosevelt and the Democrats. It has been repeated every election since.

The formation of the CIO Political Action Committee in 1943 was another attempt to hold the labor vote in line for the Democrats by mobilizing the workers in a separate political organization that voted "not for the party, but the man" usually a Democrat. The net result of this policy was strengthening of Wall Street's political monopoly, the turn of large sections of the voters to the Republicans, and the era of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law.

If the workers wait for the top union officials, a labor party will never be formed. "Now is not the time" really means "no time is the time." If the steady growth of political reaction climaxed by the 80th Congress hasn't made the time for a labor party rotten ripe, when will it be time? When the unions are cut to pieces by anti-labor laws?

The top union leaders haven't the slightest hope, by their policy, of ensuring a less reactionary Congress and Administration in November, 1948. Emil Rieve, a leading CIO official, has already intimated a retreat even on the proclaimed campaign to defeat all who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act. He now proposes to concentrate on defeating only 12 incumbent Senators and 100 Representatives.

Since the workers cannot possibly get a better Congress in 1948 by supporting Democrats or Republicans, it would be far, far wiser to concentrate their efforts and resources on building their own party and running their own candidates now. They may not win the first heat in '48; but they can win the race in '52.

Can Democratic Party Be Reformed?

A Look at the Record from Cleveland to Roosevelt

By Art Preis

Nothing is more embarrassing to the trade union leaders today than reference to the Democratic Party. Although most of them have faithfully served this capitalist party for the past 14 years, they are strangely silent now about its role and program.

They prefer to center attention on various "progressives" and 'friends of labor" in the Democratic Party. They leave unanswered the question: how could any real friend of labor remain part of a political machine so discredited that its mere mention is a source of embarrassment to labor leaders?

But this does not mean the top union leaders are done with the Democratic Party. On the contrary, they are grasping for ways and means to resell this party to the American workers. It is not unlikely they will seize on the formula: Reform the Democratic Party!

This is the formula now being advanced by Henry Wallace and, in a veiled form, by his Stalinist camp-followers. Wallace stated at the recent CIO United Electrical Workers convention that he intends to work within the Democratic Party "unless and until I am convinced that this administration is committed to red-baiting and to fomenting a final war."

The notion that the Democratic Party is essentially progressive and can be made to serve the interests of the workers is not new. It is a deception foisted on the American people since the days following the Civil War, after the Democratic Party controlled by the Southern slave-holders suffered a smashing defeat.

But the history and record of the Democratic Party prove that it can never serve the interests of the people. From the first "reform" administration of Grover Cleveland in 1884 to the reign of the Truman Doctrine, the Democratic Party has been a party of lies and deceptive promises which, in office, has always served the capitalist class. It is corrupt in the seed and rotten in the root.

Four times in the past 70 years the Democratic Party has experienced a great resurgence, when the people turned to it in hope that it would break the grip of the monied class. Four names are chiefly associated with these Democratic upsurges—Grover Cleveland, William Jennings Bryan, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

FIRST DEMOCRATIC "NEW DEALER"

Grover Cleveland, in a sense, was the first Democratic "New Dealer." He was elected to the presidency in 1884 on the promise of "reform." The poor farmers and city toilers had turned to him when they could no longer stand the stench of the Republican spoils system in Washington.

Cleveland and the inner circles of the Democratic Party had secretly wooed the big capitalists. Many of the richest industrialists at that time began the practice of contributing to both the Republican and Democratic parties. The list of Democratic contributors include some of the leading coal and iron, railroad, sugar and oil moguls.

By the time Cleveland concluded his second term in 1896, he had alienated the farmers and workers almost completely and paved the way for an internal revolt inside the Democratic Party. His crowning act was to send federal troops against the Pullman Company strikers in Chicago and use injunctions to break the strike.

Two decades later, the head of another Democratic "reform" government, Woodrow Wilson, was forced to distinguish between himself and Cleveland by declaring: **"This country has never had a Democratic administration since the Civil War. You may think Cleveland's administration was Democratic. It was not. Cleveland was a conservative Republican." That was in 1913, before Wilson revealed himself as close to Wall Street as Cleveland had ever been.**

BRYAN PROMISES CURE-ALL

The banner of Democratic "reform" in 1896 was taken up by William Jennings Bryan, a Nebraska Congressman in the pay of the silver mining interests. This "grass roots" orator and demagogue used the issue of "cheap money" and "free silver" as the promised cure-all for the ills of the farmers and workers harassed by debt and depression.

Riding the wave of popular revolt against Wall Street and the growing trusts, Bryan and the Democratic liberals captured the Democratic Convention in 1896. But the forces who ruled the Democratic Party were not the "common people."

Bryan was a professional lecturer for the American Bimetallic League, a propaganda and lobby group subsidized by big silver mining interests whose only aim was to get the government to buy up all their silver at a price equivalent to gold. They called for the unlimited coinage of silver and "cheap money." Forty years later, the Democratic war administrations of Roosevelt and Truman were to realize Bryan's program of "cheap money" in a devastating inflation.

The Bryan "reform" of the Democratic Party did not outlast the intense but short-lived clamor for **"free silver."** It had one especially disastrous effect. It helped undermine the sweeping movement of protest led by the People's Party, a party the capitalists feared because it threatened to disrupt their two-party system of political monopoly.

The leaders of the People's Party split their organization in 1896 to throw their support to the Democrat Bryan and his single-track program of monetary inflation.

"NEW FREEDOM" ADVOCATE

In 1912, the Democratic Party put forward the advocate of the "New Freedom" program, Woodrow Wilson. Wilson was represented to the people as an idealistic college president. But, as Ferdinand Lundberg tells in his **America's 60 Families**, "for nearly twenty years before his nomination Wodrow Wilson had moved in the shadow of Wall Street."

Wilson's chief sponsor was Cleveland H. Dodge, director of the National City Bank of New York and scion of a vast copper and munitions fortune. Today Wilson's 'reforms" appear picayune indeed. His income tax bill levied a surtax of only 6% on incomes of more than $500,000. His Federal Reserve System was contrived by a group of Wall Street financial giants as a governmental device to centralize money and credit under the control of the biggest banking interests.

In 1900, the Democratic Party adopted a plank against "imperialism." In his first term, Wilson sent American troops into Mexico on behalf of American oil and mining corporations that had seized Mexican resources.

Wilson was reelected in 1916 on the promise to "keep America out of war." On April 6, 1917, Wilson led this country into the first imperialist World War —a "war to end war," so he promised.

This was the time when the terms "dollar-a-year-men" and "cost-plus" first became part of the national vocabulary. The orgy of war profiteering created a scandal which echoed down to the days of Wilson's successor, Roosevelt, and the even greater thievery of World War II. The cost of World War I was estimated at about 38 billion dollars, or just about equal the profits the corporations secured from the war.

Wilson's "New Freedom" ended with the monopolies more powerful than ever, and a post-war union-busting drive that began with the smashing of the 1919 Steel Strike.

Not until the people suffered 12 years of Republican corruption, crowned by the crash of 1929 did the Democrats have another chance to play their old game now called the "New Deal" by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

(To be continued)

Bethlehem Steel Leads Opposition to Settling Of Shipyard Strike

By Bob Lowell

NEW YORK, Spt. 29—Now in its 14th week, the shipyard strike continues as the CIO Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers keeps picket lines moving in front of shipyards from Boston to San Pedro.

Although the strike still affects 30,000 employes of Bethlehem Steel and 10,000 others at United States Steel's Federal Yard in Kearny, the Atlantic Basin Iron Works in Brooklyn and smaller concerns, the daily press pays but little attention to this strike in an industry now considered "not vital."

When the strike began in June, over 70,000 workers were involved. Many of the yards have since signed contracts including a 12 cent hourly raise and the maintenance of job security.

But Bethlehem Steel leads the hold-outs in demanding the almost complete abolition of the security guaranteed by seniority and job classification clauses usually contained in the contract.

CONTINUED INTERVENTION

Continued intervention by the government has failed to budge Bethlehem although some progress was reported this week from the meetings of the union, company and the Federal Mediation Board in Washington. Needless to say, the government's intervention consists of trying to mediate what the company offers—not what the union demands.

In short, the government's intervention is a farce since, as the biggest customer of the shipyards, it could bring the strike to a halt almost at will through the maritime agencies.

If it weren't for the real hardships facing the striking workers, it could be said that the whole shipyard industry, its peculiar place in the nation's economy and its operation by stalwarts of "free enterprise," have the elements of a fantasy.

Through this industry they milked the people of this country of millions of dollars during the war. While building a "Bridge of Ships," they succeeded in building a bridge of profits from the U. S. Treasury into their pockets.

Now these people, who have allowed the industry to stagnate and rot because their only interest is in profits, insist on the right to fix so-called "efficient peacetime conditions." Their sole program for a sick and dying industry is to weaken the union and institute a speed-up. In other words, still more profits.

AMAZING RESILIENCY

Fourteen weeks of strife in the coal fields or the steel mills can shake the economic foundations of this country, but the shipbuilding industry under like conditions merely slips more quickly toward the decay and rot from which it was saved by the second world war. Under these conditions the resiliency of the IUMSWA membership is little short of amazing.

This "toughness" plus the absence of any large "army of the unemployed" makes it possible for the workers to win this round of the battle, but the fundamental problems of this industry and its employes cry aloud for a solution. For it is obvious that the policy of profits first and the welfare of human beings last will make the American shipbuilding and repair industry a dead industry and make its workers the vanguard of the march from the factory to the breadline.

The stubbornness of the shipyard companies and their indifference to the real needs of the industry underline the need for its control and operation to be taken out of their hands. Nationalization under control of the workers is the only solution for the industry.

FOOD PRICE GAMBLERS LAY STAKES ON EMPTY CUPBOARD

By Arne Swabeck

Every additional day of sunshine now fills out the kernels and brings nearer to maturity the Golden Bantam and the hybrid corn of the midwest states. Farmers watch anxiously, fearful lest early frosts seriously reduce belated crops. It is a race against time and weather.

On the "Wheat Pit" of Chicago's Board of Trade this race also finds its expression. But in a different form, with a different content. Here the wheat gamblers rush around dishevelled, frantically, in a veritable orgy of speculative buying and selling of grain futures, i.e., future delivery.

The whole thing resembles a madhouse. It is the greed-insanity of the rich, grabbing the "take" through the most vicious form of profiteering: A billion dollar gamble on plenty or scarcity for the American people.

These gamblers and cheats never even see the wheat, the corn, nor any other food products traded by them at sky-rocketing prices. They raise no crops; nor does their reckless speculation add one nickel's worth of value.

But they know that this year's corn yield will be lower than last year's, an estimated 600,000,000 bushels less. There is danger of further reductions by frost. Wheat was a bumper crop this year. But the wheat gamblers also know about the drought in Europe where people face starvation. That means continued lucrative sales for exports and—greater scarcity for the American table.

The gamble in the "Pit" steps up to a furious pace. Prices climb upward, ever upward. Reports of frost damage in scattered parts of the Midwest lift prices still higher, reaching all time peaks with a bushel of wheat pressing the $3 mark, almost a dollar higher than last year, and corn not far behind.

In million's of workmen's homes the cupboards may show empty shelves, but this billion dollar gamble shows lusher and lusher profits. After all, didn't Senator Taft tell us to "eat less"? Didn't the President say exactly the same thing in different words by admonishing us to cut the waste of food?

And now comes the Bureau of Labor Statistics to inform us that prices soared to all time high the week ending Sept. 20. Its wholesale price index stood at 158.1% of the 1926 average. This is 27.7% above the corresponding week a year ago. The Department of Agriculture adds that this year the consumers are spending about 21% of their income for food as against 18% last year and 16% during 1944 and 1945. And even last year, says the same report, the average American paid $302 for food compared with $119 before the war.

Average income, however, includes the income of the big corporation owners, the members of the billionaire club. When a workman with a family has paid his rent and grocery bills, mighty little remains of his paycheck.

What will food prices be next winter, or next spring? As a rule, top prices paid for corn in the fall show up in higher meat prices the next season. Yes, and they are also reflected in most of the essential protein foods, milk, butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, fats, etc.; for it is in the shape of these products that nine-tenths of the country's corn goes to market. It is used as stock feed.

On the whole, this means a far heavier load on the workman's budget. The already diminished real wage is headed for an all-time low.

But such considerations never bother the "conscience" of the wheat gamblers. This fraternity of vampires, fattening on the needs, wants, and misery of society makes the Capone syndicate look like Saints by comparison.

Their gambling is conducted on what is called the "margin." This means that in their speculative buying they need put down cash only for 17 to 18% of the total. This is what the "Wheat Pit" now requires. Thus a gambler buying $2.65 corn for future delivery, puts up only 45 cents in cash. But the profit of sale is all his.

Recently the Commodity Exchange Authority requested the Chicago Board of Trade to increase the margin to 33⅓% in these speculative futures deals. A modest request indeed, motivated by fears of a boom-and-bust situation. But the directors of the Board of Trade turned it down. They voted to let things rip.

Profiteering through gambling is not typical of food products alone. It is typical of the whole capitalist system of production and distribution. It is an integral and indivisable part of this system. And it will not be done away with, nor even seriously curtailed, until the system itself is uprooted.

In the socialist system of tomorrow, national planned production, based on people's needs, will replace the existing criminally wasteful and chaotic system of production for personal gains for a few. Farmers will be given all facilities, will be aided in developing and enriching the bounties of nature. These bounties will then be made available to the teeming millions in the cities, who perform socially useful labor.

Exchange and distribution will be placed in the hands of workers and farmers co-operative distributing organizations; and the costs will cover only what is required for the well-being of both of these essential social categories. And even misfortunes of nature, which today still cause scarcities, will prove small obstacles when our gigantic forces of production are really set free in a free society.

Railway Express Walkout

Packages at New York's LaGuardia airfield piled up after more than 4,000 Railway Express Agency workers of AFL Teamsters Locals 459 and 808 struck for a 15½ cents wage raise and a cut in working hours from 44 to 40. The walkout also spread to northern New Jersey. See story on this page.

Fedrated Pictures

UE Stalinists Seek to Ban All Opposition Groups

The Stalinist machine at the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers convention in Boston last week struck another blow at trade union democracy and strengthened the Communist Party's stranglehold on the union's apparatus.

Through its control of the top UE leadership, the Stalinist faction rammed through a resolution aimed to illegalize all UE caucuses but its own and to confront opposition caucuses with the threat of expulsion.

This resolution ordered the dissolution of the leading opposition caucus, the so-called UE Committee for Democratic Action. This is a bloc of Social-Democrats, Association of Catholic Trade Unionists and other elements united around a program of "anti-communism" and support of the imperialist Truman Doctrine.

With supreme hypocrisy, the Stalinist resolution accused the opposition caucus of having "no purpose save to capture for outsiders the control of the union." Thus, the Stalinists used for their own ends the anti-democratic policy of the last CIO convention's resolution "resenting and rejecting" any "outside interference," especially the Communist Party's.

The Stalinist resolution declared further that if the opposition members "persist in their disruption," the UE leaders will "drive them out of the union." A constitutional amendment was also passed to implement the resolution by empowering the Stalinist-dominated General Executive Board to suspend any local "in circumstances which might lead to revocation of charter."

Lacking any progressive program of their own, the UE Committee for Democratic Action could only strengthen the hand of the Stalinists by rabid red-baiting. This served to drive genuine union militants, in some instances, into support of the Stalinists, who played "militant" and used radical-sounding phrases.

The only answer the opposition bloc gave to the bureaucratic moves of the Stalinists was a resolution calling for reaffirmation and enforcement of the anti-communist, anti-democratic resolution of the last CIO convention. This is the resolution, incidentally, that the Stalinists in the 1946 CIO convention, including the UE leaders, helped to draft and unanimously supported.

Thus, the UE convention presented the spectacle of two unprincipled cliques fighting for bureaucratic power. Both of them based themselves on anti-democratic programs. The Stalinists played the most despicable role, however, because they represent themselves as "left-wingers" and the most "advanced" representatives of the working class. Their anti-democratic methods help the reactionaries to smear the very idea of socialism as "totalitarianism."

In the CIO as a whole and the labor movement generally, the Stalinists are under vicious attack by the red-baiters and union leaders in the camp of Truman imperialism. By attacking the right of union members to maintain caucuses in the UE, the Stalinists fortify trade union bureaucracy generally and encourage the anti-democratic red-baiting drive.

NO EFFECTIVE ANSWER

The UE Stalinists and their right-wing opposition had no fundamental differences on union program. The Stalinists offered no effective answer to price inflation and the anti-labor drive. On political action, they offered their "third party" demagogy which advocates building a "third party movement" by supporting "progressives" of the two Wall Street parties, Democratic and Republican.

Only the issue of foreign policy divided the two factions on program. The Stalinist foreign policy resolution condemned Wall Street imperialism, but was silent on the reactionary role of the Kremlin in the Russian - occupied countries. Their opponents backed the Truman Doctrine of war preparations against the Soviet Union.

A resolution calling for withdrawal of all foreign troops from occupied countries would have exposed the reactionary character of the foreign policy resolutions of both caucuses. But genuine progressives had little chance to be heard at this UE convention.

The events of the convention made clear that the grip of reactionary Stalinism on the UE will be broken only by a genuinely progressive fight for full democracy, including the right of caucuses, and for a militant policy of independent struggle against the bosses on the economic and political field.

N. Y. Express Pickets Defy Intimidation

NEW YORK, Oct. 1—This city's 5,000 Railway Express Agency drivers are holding firm on the thirteenth day of their militant strike against the threat of a 10 million dollar damage suit under the Taft-Hartley Act, pressure from federal mediation officials and the strike-breaking intervention of Daniel J. Tobin, Czar-President of the AFL Teamsters.

The strike was called when the railway express monopoly turned down the demands of Local 808 for a cost-of-living wage raise of 15½ cents an hour and reduction of the work week from 44 to 40 hours. The company had stalled a settlement since June 26, expiration date of the previous contract.

Tobin intervened at the outbreak of the strike, as he has done in numerous other Teamsters walkouts, in an attempt to force the men back to work. He alleged the strike violated provisions of the notorious Railway Labor Act requiring a 60-day strike notice and cooling-off period.

His attack on the strike gave aid and comfort to the National Rail Mediation Board officials who promptly labeled the walkout "unauthorized, wildcat and unlawful." The Board is blocking efforts at local arbitration, which the strikers have stated they will accept.

Local 808 leaders have sharply assailed the Railroad Labor Act as an "outmoded document" and say they will agree to arbitration by any other agency that may be regarded as "impartial."

Action to use the Taft-Hartley Act against the strikers was initiated by 10 big millinery manufacturers, each filing for $1,000,000 damages against Local 808. They alleged that Local 808 had conducted a secondary boycott, enforced by picketing in the garment district, against the hat bosses.

The strikers had maintained pickets for several days to advise drivers from other Teamsters locals about their strike. The hat manufacturers were trying to use independent drivers to haul their shipments in place of the customary Railway Express men. Pickets were withdrawn on news of the damage suit.

Meanwhile, the strikers are keeping the Railway Express shut down, with a pile-up of 500,000 packages.

Our Program:

1. **Defend labor's standard of living!**
   - A sliding scale of wages — an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!
   - Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!
   - Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers control!
2. **Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!**
   - For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!
   - Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!
   - Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
3. **Against all anti-labor laws and government strike-breaking!**
   - No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!
   - No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
4. **Build an independent labor party!**
5. **Tax the rich, not the poor!**
   - Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!
   - No taxes on incomes under $5,000 a year!
6. **An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!**
7. **Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!**
   - End Jim Crow! End anti-Semitism!
8. **For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!**
9. **A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.**
   - Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!
   - Against capitalist conscription!
   - Abolish the officer caste system!
   - Full democratic rights in the armed forces!
   - Trade Union wages for the armed forces!
   - Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
10. **Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!**
    - For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!
    - Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. **For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!**

Mail This Coupon With 50c For A 6-Month Subscription to

THE MILITANT

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

I enclose———(stamps, currency or money order).

Please enter my subscription as follows:

☐ **Six months (26 issues) for 50 cents.**

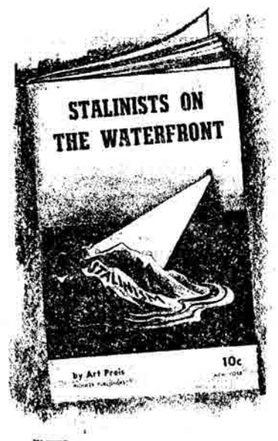
☐ **One year (52 issues) for $1.**

Name .....
(Please Print)

Street ..... Apt.....

City..... Postal Zone.....

State .....



32 pages 10 cents

Pioneer Publishers

116 University Pl.,

New York 3, N. Y.

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
116 University Place
New York 3, New York

I would like:

☐ To join the Socialist Workers Party.

☐ To obtain further information about your organization

☐ To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME .....
(Please Print)

STREET .....

CITY .....

POSTAL ZONE ..... STATE .....

Capitalist Politics From the Inside

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process; namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist beginnings. These organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crises and wars.
—Leon Trotsky, 1940

By J. R. Johnson

There is an elemental drive of the capitalist class to counter-revolution. It is elemental but not at all instinctive. It is the most cold-blooded, calculated defense of property and privilege. The diaries of Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, selections from which are appearing in Collier's, gives us one more example of this.

You remember the depression of 1937. It demonstrated that Roosevelt's New Deal was as helpless in face of the antagonisms of capitalism as the old deal of Hoover. Roosevelt, however, had attempted the policy of government spending and had let the budget go unbalanced. This necessitated a growing control by the government. The 1937 depression, therefore, faced the country and the government with serious problems.

Would the policy of government spending continue? Would the government attempt to balance the budget or continue with the budget more unbalanced than before? What, if anything, could be done by government or business to help the situation? Morgenthau's diary tells us how the Roosevelt cabinet reacted.

The cabinet was bankrupt. Nobody knew what to do. Said the President at one cabinet meeting, "I am sick and tired of being told by the cabinet, by Henry (Morgenthau) and by everybody else for the last two weeks what's the matter with the country and nobody suggests what I should do."

What finally saved Roosevelt and his government was the armaments program for World War II. Apart from this, they had no more idea what to do about the economy than a farmer in the dust bowl, or Truman today.

Morgenthau, the Secretary of the Treasury, offered his solution.

"You could do something about the public utilities . . . You can do something about the railroads. You can do something about housing. Above all, you must do something to reassure business."

Roosevelt knew that Big Business had been attacking the unbalanced budget. Big Business is not interested in whether budgets are balanced or not in relation to the theory or practice of good government. They are opposed to an unbalanced budget because, as a rule, it means heavier, taxation for them. Roosevelt knew this and had been accustomed periodically to make long speeches about the necessity of balancing the budget. Here, therefore, it seemed that it was necessary once more to reassure business. So Roosevelt told Morgenthau,

"You want me to turn on the old record."

But Morgenthau wasn't playing. He said:

"What business wants to know is: are we headed toward state Socialism or are we going to continue on a capitalistic basis?" Crisis or no crisis, this is what these gentlemen govern their lives by—to preserve capitalism even if thereby the nation and the world go down to ruin.

I have told them that over and over again, said the President. Tell them again, replied Morgenthau. That's what they want to know, said Farley. Wallace agreed with Farley. "All right...," said Roosevelt. "I will turn on the old record."

This being agreed upon, Jim Farley remarked that it was one of the best cabinet meetings that they had ever had.

There is little need to emphasize the moral. The economy was in danger. This is the time when everybody calls upon **the workers** for all sorts of sacrifices. The workers are informed that their own special interests must be subordinated to the national welfare. Since the end of the war, for example, that's what they have been telling us. Take it easy. Work harder. Don't make a noise about higher prices. And after a period of cooperative work for the national welfare, all will be well.

Not so the capitalist class. It was precisely when the country was in the greatest economic danger that they mobilized their forces to get what they wanted. Every man in Roosevelt's cabinet agreed that it was necessary to reassure Big Business. Note that Roosevelt was not any kind of socialist, and, in fact, was one of the greatest defenders of the capitalistic system that it has ever had. But he was interfering too much. And Wall Street put the screws on him the moment the country was in trouble.

Big capital is sensitive to any encroachment upon its control of capitalist production. It is sensitive also to any action by the proletariat. The very same section of Morgenthau's diary shows this as clearly as it shows the first.

A battle raged in Congress over appropriations for the WPA. Jack Garner went to President Roosevelt. He told the President that if Congress cut the appropriation he was afraid there would be unemployment demonstrations. He wanted to know if those people marched on Washington would the President order protection for the Congress?

This was the President's reply.

"Jack," he said, "there may be 30,000 people (hunger marchers). The metropolitan police are available I can call out the soldiers and draw a cordon around the Capital, but what am I going to do about housing these people, or feeding them? I will have to ask Congress for the money."

"But will you protect us?" the Vice-President persisted. "Yes," said the President. "Well, that's something I have been very much worried about," Garner remarked.

Isn't this wonderful? The two major forces in the country are placed before us as in a diagram. Big capital pressing the President through the men in the cabinet whom it controls. Congress, through the Vice-President, pressing for protection against the very people whom it is supposed to represent. This is capitalist production and politics all over. Roosevelt, we must note, is quite ready to use the troops to prevent the people confronting their representatives. This is the first function of the capitalist army—to be used against the people.

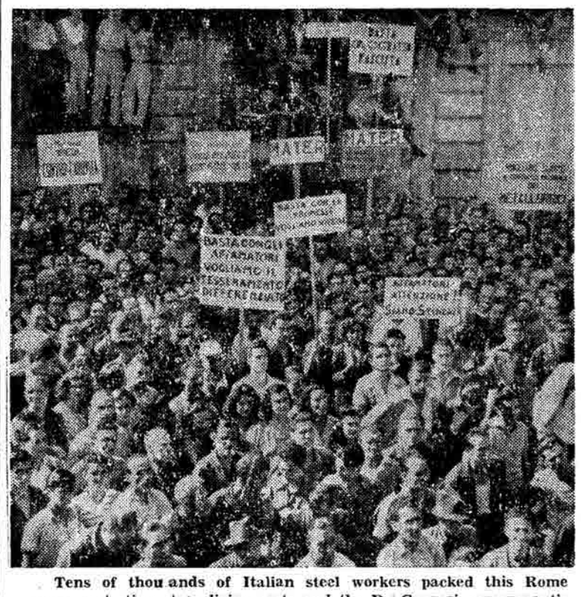
What causes all the rumpus is that the people are not sending telegrams or deputations, but have shown that they intend to come out into the streets and send 30,000 of their number to Washington. The plotting and the intrigue are progressing merrily until the people threaten a direct intervention. This throws panic into the camp. We want protection, says the Vice-President. I'll call out the troops, says the President.

That is capitalist democracy, a screen behind which the capitalist class and their political representatives carry on all sorts of intrigues and maneuvers directed against any encroachment on capitalist privileges and capitalist profits. The greater the crisis, the more they press to win back any points they have lost or to establish new gains for the future.

The only thing that makes them take any serious notice of the working class is its direct intervention into the political scene. The idea of 30,000 marchers in Washington had Jack Garner quaking. When a few thousand Negroes said that they wanted to march on Washington, President Roosevelt became more active on the Negro question in 8 weeks than he had been for the previous 8 years.

The day that a million workers declare their intention to march on Washington, not actually begin to march, but merely declare their intention of doing so, there will be no need for us to wait any number of years for diaries to reveal anything. The capitalist class, the capitalist government will at once reveal themselves, all teeth and claws, dripping venom and counter-revolution.

Rome Steel Workers Strike



Tens of thousands of Italian steel workers packed this Rome square protesting steep living costs and the De Gasperi government's failure to do anything about curbing the steadily rising trend.
Federated Pictures

Marshall Plan Offers No Hope To Starving People of Europe

The Marshall Plan is now down in black and white. Made public Sept. 24 as the General Report of the 16 nations Committee of European Economic Cooperation, it is being hailed by the press as "the most significant document produced in this world since the United Nations Charter." According to the Wall Street propagandists it is a "blueprint for a program of cooperation which seems so new, so challenging and so possible that $16,000,000,000 would be a cheap price to pay for translating it into realtiy."

The association of the Marshall Plan with the UN is quite apropos. Just as the United Nations is nothing but another edition of the old League of Nations, so the Marshall Plan is nothing but another edition of the Dawes and Young Plans of the Twenties.

Those economic "aid" plans were designed to stabilize reaction, stave off socialist revolutions and advance Wall Street's interests in Europe. The Dawes and Young plans gave European capitalism a breathing spell, enabling it later to put fascist regimes in power and prepare for World War II.

Will the Marshall Plan enable Europe to recover? The answer is no. First of all, the Plan counts at best on reaching a "significantly below prewar" level of consumption of food in Europe by 1951. This is only food. Nothing at all is said about clothing or housing.

In adidtion, even this starvation level of food consumption can be obtained only if the resources of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union become available. How they would be made available—whether by war or by a deal with the Kremlin—the plan does not specify.

PROMISES

This is what the plan **promises.** This promise, however, is not likely to be carried out. The reason is that the State Department envoys insisted that the drafters of the plan arbitrarily cut down their figures on the amount of aid needed from the United States. Thus if only $22,440,000,000 worth of goods are sent that will be far below what is needed to reach even the low goals specified, since those goals were calculated on the basis of some $30,000,000,000 worth of goods.

On top of this no provision is made for inflation. If prices continue their upward spiral, then the dollar figures become still more inadequate to cover Europe's needs.

The ultimate success of the plan, declares the report, hinges on two conditions. (1) Europe's imports from the Americas must be cut down year by year until they reach a much lower level than at present. (2) Europe's exports to the entire world must be increased year by year until they reach a volume far above prewar levels.

Realization of the first condition would mean the loss of a tremendous market for the American capitalists. The consequence of this would be a devastating depression in the U. S.

Realization of the second condition would mean the displacement of Wall Street in a number of markets by European capitalism and above all the domestic market right here in America. This would mean economic rivalry on a scale far more explosive than that which preceded either the First or Second World Wars.

MARSHALL PLAN'S AIM

The real aim of the Marshall Plan, however, is not to restore European economy. Wall Street is not interested in strengthening European capitalism to such an extent that it becomes a dangerous competitor on the world market. That is why it blocks the recovery of the German industrial machine and methodically proceeds with the plans to dismantle between 900 and 1400 plants in the occupied zones. And that is why the Marshall Plan has no seriously-meant provisions for the integration of Europe's economy.

Wall Street's third big objective is to provide dollar credits to the bankrupt European capitalist powers sufficient to keep up the present rate of American exports, thus postponing the looming depression. Its second big objective is to stave off working class revolution in Europe by (a) bolstering up reaction and (b) providing soup line relief.

THIRD OBJECTIVE

Wall Street's third big objective is to prepare for the projected World War III by building up a Western Bloc of European powers as a continental base and springboard for the eventual attack envisaged on the Soviet Union. That is why the Marshall Plan cannot be considered separate and apart from the frenzied stockpiling of atomic bombs, experiments with long-range rockets, and maneuvers of armed forces under Arctic (Russian) weather conditions.

The Marshall Plan is just as much an integral part of Wall Street's war preparations as is the recently concluded Western Hemisphere military pact..

What the Marshall Plan Proposes To Meet Europe's Postwar Crisis

The 25,000 word General Report of the Committee of European Economic Cooperation begins with a confession that sounds strange after the tons of capitalist propaganda about the virtues of free enterprise and the evils of planned economy. It takes as its premise the indivisible inter-relationship of European economy, indeed even world economy, and admits that "sustained common efforts" can pull humanity out of the general ruin brought about by the war.

Chapter I, labelled "Historical Introduction," is worth studying as a damning confession of the end results of the capitalist system in Europe. "In 1945 Europe was perhaps more denuded of resources than at any time in modern history," declares the report. "There was a shortage of all basic materials: of fertilizers to renovate the soil, of raw materials and equipment to quicken production, and in most countries of available labor. Some industries began to run down for lack of facilities for all but temporary repair."

Allied victory was obtained "only at the price" of "destruction of some of the centers of production and the dislocation of the transport system, and by the sacrifice of shipping and foreign investments...." As a result "a breakdown occurred which altered the whole basis of the economy of Europe."

The food resources and raw materials, particularly timber, of Eastern Europe were cut off from Western Europe by the general devastation of war and by the westward extension of the Kremlin's domination. In addition the conflict in the Far East and the colonial rebellions that followed cut off another vital source of raw materials. This forced European economy into abnormal dependence upon the continents of North and South America for goods that had once flowed from other regions.

"The devastated countries," continues the report, "had to start again almost from the beginning." At first recovery proceeded at a surprising pace. In the process, however, the stocks not consumed or destroyed by war were used up, the gold and dollar supplies were rapidly depleted by purchases abroad. Thus European capitalism has now arrived in a blind alley. Economic recovery cannot proceed without the most drastic measures.

The balance of the report outlines specific proposals to meet the threatening catastrophe. A good deal of space is wasted with pious resolutions about the European countries themselves doing all they can to recover. These resolutions were inserted, according to report, at the insistence of State Department envoys as talking points in selling the Plan to Congress.

PLENTY OF TALK

In addition the report contains a good deal of talk about customs unions, lowered tariff walls, and increasing economic collaboration. But all these measures are only to be "gradually" undertaken over a long stretch of years.

The plan is extremely vague about the integration of European economy since it would at once doom those capitalists who can show a profit only with the help of steep tariffs and other barriers against foreign competition.

The plan also calls for a free labor supply. Some 3,000,000 Italian workers, for instance, are unemployed. The capitalists of other lands look at this reservoir of possible cheap labor with greedy eyes.

The principal measure proposed by the plan is the continued shipment of goods from the American continents, underwritten by the U. S. Public Treasury. The cost of the necessary goods for the four year period 1948-1951 is set down in the report as $22,440,000,000. Some $3,130,000,000 of this will come from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, another $3,500,000,000 from Canada and Latin America, leaving about $15,810,000,000 to be directly underwritten by Congress.

If You Like THE MILITANT Pass It Along To A Friend

Did British Workers Gain By Voting Labor Ticket?

By John G. Wright

Among the first questions raised in connection with what is happening in England is this: Was it a good thing for the British workers to have voted the Labor Party into power? What have they gained by it?

For a correct answer to these key questions, it is first necessary to grasp the full meaning of the results of the August 1945 elections in the political development of the British working class. The first national poll in a decade revealed what extraordinary changes had **occurred in the minds** of the English masses during the war years.

By voting for the Labor Party, the workers as a whole condemned and rejected the Tory-capitalist leadership which had administered national affairs for the preceding fifteen years. There was a massive shift to the left by virtually the entire English working class, considerable sections among whom had previously still voted either for the Liberals or had abstained altogether from voting.

Thus, the class as a whole, and not its marjority alone (as had been the case in the past) showed that they had broken with capitalist politics and were determined to kick both Tories and Liberals out of office. This decision and their action flowing from it was a big step forward in freeing the workers from their submission to capitalist politicians.

Ideas have tremendous power for good and for evil. It is what the workers **think** that in the end determines what they **do.** By repudiating the thought of seeking leadership among the Tory and "liberal" representatives of the capitalists and looking for it among their own ranks and through their own class party, the British workers were replacing in reality false ideas with correct ones, even though they did not choose right away the right leaders to take them along the road to Socialism.

Moreover, this break of the workers with the Tories opened up new prospects for other sections of the population. Large numbers of the middle class, who had never before accepted Laborite politics, were pulled along to the left. They, too, were disgusted with the political agents of capitalism and eager to follow labor's leadership. When we remember that this part of the population had been for generations the chief mass base of Tory support, we can judge how progressive this action was.

Finally, nine out of ten British soldiers voted against the British capitalists, a much larger proportion than among the rest of the electorate. Soldiers, under the discipline of officers who hold powers of life and death over them, are as a rule hesitant to accept or avow radical ideas until the civilians demonstrate their own readiness to act upon them.

Nothing so clearly shows the extent to which the English masses had become disgusted with the capitalist rulers than the size of this soldier vote, without parallel in the history of capitalist militarism. By giving such whole-hearted backing to the Labor Party, the workers encouraged their brothers in uniform to do likewise.

VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

The vote given by the workers and soldiers was not only a repudiation of the Tories; it was likewise a vote of no confidence in the coalition politics practiced by Laborite leaders in the war cabinet. The masses intended to give a mandate to the Labor Party leaders to take all the power and give the nation a completely new government, socialist in character.

Those who contend that it would have been better for all these people not to vote for the Labor Party under these conditions would have to tell us what alternative they would have proposed. The Liberals, reduced to a splinter-party, were totally discredited even before the war. The British Communist (Stalinist) Party was likewise hopelessly compromised.

It would have been best if the British workers could be persuaded to support a real revolutionary socialist party, but unfortunately the British Trotskyists had not yet acquired wide mass influence.

The alternative, then, was either to vote for Churchill and the Tories, or else abstain. But many workers were convinced—and they were right—that even if the Laborite leaders were untrustworthy, it was better to vote the Laborite ticket. To abstain would have only aided the capitalist reactionaries.

Rather than continue with the direct agents of industrialists and bankers at the head of the government, the workers thought it better to have their own representatives, however inadequate, in office, where they could exert influence upon them—or kick them out later. Should the American workers, a likewise, as we advocate, it would mark for all of us, too, a giant forward step.

In brief, the election of the Labor Government was a good thing because:

1. It broke the stranglehold of the capitalist politicians over the British people, reducing them to a minority party.

2. It enhanced the British workers' power and confidence in their ability to solve all the burning social problems through their own agencies.

3. It gave new hope to the rest of the British masses.

4. It enables the British workers to verify through their own experiences the real character of the official labor leadership, and thus prepares them to build a new leadership pledged to carry out the revolutionary program they want.

40,000 Down Tools To Protest Speed-up In Polish Textile Mills

Under the iron hand of the Kremlin bureaucracy, strikes or other demonstrations of the working class are ruthlessly suppressed. Leaders of such actions are arrested and only too often end up before a firing squad.

Any strike in the Soviet Union or Moscow-occupied territories is thus of unusual significance, indicating as it does heroic resistance to the Stalinist terror.

Such a strike was reported in the press Sept. 25. At Lodz, Poland, a city of some 500,000 people 80 miles west of Warsaw, 40,000 textile workers, three-fourths of them women, began a strike Sept. 15 against a government-introduced speed-up.

When government officials demanded that the workers handle four machines instead of their former maximum of two, the afternoon shift struck, staying in the plant. The night shift joined them, and some 6,000 workers staged an over night sit-down strike.

The Stalinist-dominated government moved swiftly and ferociously. Some 80 alleged strike leaders were seized by the police. The censorship stifled news about the strike but the word spread and sympathy stoppages occurred in 7 or 8 other plants until almost one-third of all textile workers in the city were idle.

By the end of 10 days the government terror had succeeded in breaking the back of the strike. But an extraordinarily courageous 5,000 still refused to go back to work.

Upon learning that news of the strike had leaked out to the press abroad, government officials called a press conference. Correspondents were flatly informed that no strike had occurred in the textile industry of Lodz.

Moreover, said a Foreign Office spokesman, the strike was "settled quietly." It didn't last 10 days but only a "short time." And "no one was hurt."

That "12 workers had been killed and others wounded," said the spokesman, was only a "false rumor."

Other political leaders acting as quislings for Moscow freely admitted the facts about the strike and its extent. But, they declared, it was organized by "reactionary circles" and its purpose was to "disrupt" working class unity.

Whether the government conceded to the demands of the workers or forced them to continue the speed-up could not be learned.

Recently the government introduced the Stakhanovite speed-up system in Polish industry. This system — stubbornly resisted for years by Russian workers—takes the speed record of an especially skilled worker clocked for a short period and gives it great publicity. The purpose is to whip the workers of an entire plant or industry to a frenzied effort to achieve similar records. Wage-scales and production "norms" are adjusted accordingly. Bribes and severe penalties help bring the pace to a killing speed.

The strike of the Polish workers is a protest against the introduction of the vicious Stakhanovite system in Poland. It may turn out to be only an isolated demonstration; but it is such actions that will sooner or later signalize a new upsurge of the working class that will mean the end of the Kremlin bureaucracy.

TITO CALLS ON STALINISTS TO FORM PEOPLE'S FRONTS

The shift in Kremlin propaganda is continuing to develop in scope and intensity. The entire Soviet press is now filled with denunciations of American imperialism and its preparations for atomic war.

On Sept. 25 U. S. Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith officially protested this campaign, charging that an article by Boris Gorbatov was "wantonly libelous in its personal attack on the President of the United States." Smith said that he could not "recall that Dr. Goebbels" ever "stooped to greater ridicule and vituperation against the head of an enemy country."

Gorbatov's article refers to Truman's Pendergast machine background, to his lack of talent, the accidents that brought him to the White House and his "subservience" to "his Wall Street master."

"The haberdasher from Jackson" declares Gorbatov, "vies for the laurels of the little corporal from Munich." Truman's "crusade against communism" is not a new slogan. "Krupps and Shroeders began this way too, putting demoniac Hitler in the foreground."

The protest of Ambassador Smith was rejected by Molotov with a counter - accusation against the American press for war-mongering and printing "lying and slanderous articles regarding the USSR."

A section of the capitalist press views this new shift in Kremlin propaganda as a turn toward revolutionary socialism. Joseph Alsop of the N. Y. Herald Tribune believes that the Italian Stalinists, for instance, are preparing "a seizure of power on the classical revolutionary pattern."

Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, however, on Sept. 27 disclosed what is really in the wind. He singled out for attack those who "think People's Fronts are outdated." He called for "People's Fronts" on a world scale to "struggle for peace" because "international reaction headed by American financial magnates once again is starting the old experiment of reviving fascism in various countries, including western Germany."

The Kremlin, it will be recalled, cooked up "People's Fronts" in the period 1935-39, labelling them the only practical means of fighting fascism. A coalition of capitalist workers parties pledged to preserve capitalism, the People's Front was used as a weapon against socialist revolution. The Stalinists in Spain for instance directed their most ferocious blows against workers who sought a socialist victory over Franco. In 1939 Stalin ended the People's Front by signing a pact with Hitler.

In Italy right now the Stalinist chieftains are doing their utmost to prevent a socialist revolution from developing. Millions of workers, seeking to end capitalist misery and chaos, have organized mass strike after mass strike. So frequent have strikes become that the press cannot keep up with them.

The poor farmers of Italy have likewise shown their complete readiness for action. Not only have they gone on strike, but in various areas they have seized some of the big estates of landlords who supported fascism.

The Stalinists have gone along with the strikes in order to maintain their leading positions. But they have gone along only to sabotage progress toward revolution. During a giant demonstration throughout Italy Sept. 20, Stalinist patrols in Rome warned the demonstrators repeatedly: "Do not cause any trouble. Show your political maturity and do not indulge in any revolutionary or irresponsible acts." (United Press)

What the Italian Stalinists are after is a place in the de Gasperi regime. The Kremlin needs such cabinet posts to strengthen its hand in bargaining for a pact with Wall Street like the one it made with Hitler.

Books and Pamphlets By

LEON TROTSKY

The First Five Years of the Communist International, vol. I	384 pp.	Cloth	$2.50 ☐
The Revolution Betrayed	308 pp.	Cloth	2.00 ☐
		Paper	1.00 ☐
In Defense of Marxism	240 pp.	Cloth	2.00 ☐
		Paper	1:50 ☐
Fascism—What It Is—How to Fight It	48 pp.		.15 ☐
Lessons of October	125 pp.		1.50 ☐
Stalinism and Bolshevism	32 pp.		.10 ☐
Their Morals and Ours	48 pp.		.20 ☐
War and the Fourth International	36 pp.		.20 ☐
Leon Sedoff	32 pp.		.10 ☐
The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International—The Transitional Program Series—Pocket Library No. 1	64 pp.		.25 ☐
Manifesto of the Fourth Interational on the Imperialist War and the Proletarian Revolution	48 pp.		.15 ☐

Order Blank

PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

I enclose $..... for the books and pamphlets checked above.

Name .....
Street .....
City .....
Zone ..... State.....

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Vol. XI.—No. 40 Monday, October 6, 1947

Published Weekly by
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N
at 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.
Telephone: ALgonquin 4-9330
FARRELL DOBBS, Editor

THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials.

Subscriptions: $1.00 per year; 50c for 6 months.
Foreign: $2.00 per year; $1.00 for 6 months.
Bundle orders: 3 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in the United States.
4 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in all foreign countries.

"Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879."

"Against a bounding rise in prices . . . one can fight only under the slogan of a sliding scale of wages. This means that collective agreements should assure an automatic rise in wages in relation to the increase in price of consumer goods."

Leon Trotsky

Fruit of PAC's False Policy

A perfect example of the bankrupt policy of the CIO Political Action Committee is the case of Senator Ralph Flanders, Vermont Republican now in the limelight as head of the Congressional price-investigation committee.

Last November 11, in an article on the "liberal forces" in the new Congress, the CIO News reported among the "labor victories" that "in Vermont, PAC-supported Radph Flanders, a liberal businessman, won a Republican seat to the Senate."

This is the same Ralph Flanders who last week baited CIO spokesmen in New York City when they charged the corporate profiteers with causing high prices. He is getting a "big press" for his open and brazen efforts to whitewash the profiteers in what is alleged to be a "probe" of their activities. (See right-hand column on this page.)

This PAC-supported "liberal" and "friend of labor" recently offered as his solution to runaway prices the idea of a "little depression"—the need for a "little unemployment" to force down prices and avoid "precipitate and deep depression."

And, of course, this "friend of labor" went down the line with the majority of Republicans and Democrats who voted for the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Act and against rent control.

Flanders is a striking example of what the workers get when they vote for "friends of labor" in either the Democratic or Republican parties. But he's not an exception.

Indeed, the PAC leaders publish all kinds of information about Congress, except the long list of Democratic and Republican "friends of labor" PAC once supported who have proved to be among the worst enemies of labor. Such a list would prove a damning indictment against PAC's policy of supporting candidates of Wall Street's two parties.

The only true friends labor has are in its own ranks. PAC will begin to serve labor's political interests only when it takes the road of genuine independent political action and runs its own candidates against all Democrats and Republicans. The job for '48 is to lay the foundation for labor's own party—not look for some more Flanders to palm off on the workers as "friends of labor."

Glaring Omission

The CIO Full Employment Committee has submitted a seven-point program to Truman's Council of Economic Advisers to meet the price squeeze and food shortage. This program is discussed on Page 1 of this issue.

But this program has a glaring shortcoming. Nothing is said about the fantastically expensive preparations for war that continue to bleed the American economy. Nothing is said about the billions of dollars being poured down the armaments rat hole by the Truman Administration. Nothing is said about the vast sums being pumped abroad to strengthen reactionary military allies and puppet regimes.

The stockpiling of atomic explosives and deadly viruses, the experimentation with ocean-spanning rocket bombs and warfare under Arctic conditions is costing the country somewhere between 10 and 15 billion dollars a year. Such colossal expenditures for instruments of destruction and war preparations enormously accelerate the inflationary spin.

Every consumer pays for this war program through skyrocketing prices on meat, eggs, milk, clothing and the other essentials. As under the Nazi regime in Germany, the country gets guns not butter.

Maintenance of the largest peacetime military camp in the history of the country places a terrific drain on the national economy. Instead of adding their productive capacity to industry, men in the armed forces sap production, for they must be fed, clothed and housed while producing nothing useful.

The loss of this labor power to the country is not all. Industry is dislocated by the never-ending demands of the militarists. This is on top of the curtailment the industrial machine suffers under the control of the profit-gougers. Plants and workers turning out rockets, jet-fighters and atomic bombs cannot produce the basic necessities required by the people. Yet they use up enormous amounts of raw materials. The consequences are seen in the scarcity of consumers goods.

It is obviously in the interests of the labor movement to uproot this parasitic growth on the national economy. The CIO Committee should include another point in its program—a demand to end the preparations for another war. Let the billions of dollars now pouring down the armaments rat hole be used for constructive purposes such as financing an adequate government-sponsored housing program.

Defend the Polish Socialists

All sections of the labor movement in this country and abroad should rally to the defense of the 36 leading Polish Socialists whose arrest by the Stalinist-dominated government of Poland was reported in a recent issue of The Militant.

These Socialist leaders—many of whom served prison terms for fighting against Czarism before the Russian Revolution and were active in the resistance movements against the Nazis during the recent war—were arrested last spring and are now in prison dungeons awaiting "trial" before military tribunals.

The charges against them read like a page out of the record of the bloody Moscow Trials, when Stalin murdered the Old Bolshevik co-workers of Lenin and Trotsky. They are accused of "provoking" strikes, carrying on underground activities, spying for a "foreign" government, etc.

All the signs indicate that these "trials" are frame-ups of the kind for which the Stalinist regime in Russia has come to stink in the nostrils of workers in all parts of the world. Their aim is to destroy every possible working class leader who could head the opposition to the Stalinist occupation of Poland.

The Militant and the Socialist Workers Party have profound political differences with the Polish Socialists, above all on the program and the methods for fighting against capitalism and Stalinism. But we condemn and fight against the Kremlin's efforts to gag them, frame them up and wipe them out.

The Polish Socialists in London have called for a protest against these arrests by organized labor throughout the world; for a public trial of the defendants with the right of independent legal defense; and for permission for labor representatives abroad to attend the trial as observers.

The Militant vigorously supports these demands. Stalinism can be recognized for what it is and defeated by the working class only when its crimes against the working class are exposed to the full light of day. The truth about the arrest and trial of the Polish Socialists will hasten that process.

UN Spot Commercials

One of the Militant editorial writers relaxes by reading Don Quixote in the original Spanish. This is in accord with the advice of Karl Marx. At the same time it pays off in more solid laughter and enjoyment than anything outside Mark Twain.

The Mrs. prefers the latest radio play. But since the creaking of the Inner Sanctum door, the screams of beauties facing death, ghosts or worse, and the insane laughter of the murderer interfere somewhat with our visualization of Don Quixote coming to the rescue of maidens imperilled by sorcerers, ogres and giants, we have reached a reasonable compromise. Instead of plays we leave the radio on a station that broadcasts classical music—the kind that goes over your head while you're reading.

The fly in the ointment is the spot commercial. Right while Don Quixote is instructing his heavy-eating squire Sancho Panza on the lofty virtues of knight errantry such as fasting, in comes a spot commercial radio gangster's voice. "Don't make a move . . . without calling . . . Lincoln." That's not Abraham, but some New York moving van outfit.

Or when Don Quixote lifts his famous bottle of cure-all elixir, compounded according to a secret formula known only to knight errantry, and downs enough of the magic stuff in his judgment to instantly heal the wounds he got charging a flock of sheep and we're splitting our sides laughing at the remarkable consequences, in comes the spot coffee commercial. A voice that drips like Wesson Oil insists—just as the elixir doubles Don Quixote up like a jacknife—that Maxwell House is good . . . to the last drop.

We've thought of somebody's inventing a spot commercial suppressor where you could push a button without putting down your book and cut off the radio across the room automatically until the music resumes; but so far we haven't got up enough energy to really campaign for it.

In this morning's paper, however, was a bit of news that may be just the straw to break the camel's back. The United Nations, it seems, is not getting enough attention. The wind, guff, gas and hot air aren't winning any love and kisses from the public. So the publicity experts are going to give the UN a life-saving shot in the arm with a series of spot commercials on the radio. The paper even quoted a sample:

"The world is round? You're crazy! A man flying? Ridiculous! A voice heard across the ocean? Insane! Well, people used to say those things were impossible. We know better today. The General Assembly is accomplishing another 'so-called' impossibility . . world peace! Get in on the discovery . . . it's an exciting experience."

With commercials like that polluting the air, maybe we'll screw up courage and put it to the Mrs. cold. While we're waiting for the rug to be jerked on the UN like the old League of Nations, how about switching off the radio? You've got to take drastic steps when the UN busts right into your own home and disrupts the peace.

"Wouldn't it help the food crisis if they'd bake bread in smaller loaves?"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

LAND OF PLENTY, A Summary of Possibilities, by Walter Dorwin Teague, Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1947, 319 pp., $3.

Walter Dorwin Teague, one of the country's foremost industrial designers, is an opponent of socialism. However, his book, **Land of Plenty**, contains material highly useful in indicting the capitalist system and presenting the case for socialism. Teague offers facts, figures and graphic examples to show what could be done to convert America into a land of fabulous plenty—if the brakes on our industrial plant were released and the throttle opened wide.

"We entered the war," he declares, "with an industrial plant valued at about 30 billion dollars. After the middle of 1940 we added about 20 billion dollars worth of new plant and machinery (three-fourths of this came from public funds—J. H.) . . . We may be able to understand what that means if we realize that it is about the same as acquiring twenty new industries, each one equal to the nation's entire prewar automobile industry, which had a plant valued at one billion dollars in 1928."

Now suppose we were to take this enormous industrial plant, forget about war and depressions, and set out to improve our standard of living. What are the possibilities?

Teague summarizes what could be done in a number of fields—power, raw materials, housing, transportation, cities, health, education, and indicates some of the fascinating perspectives now opened by the development of atomic energy.

As a sample, let's take housing. At present the housing crisis is not improving, it's getting worse. "For the past seventeen years, since 1929, we have not even held our own. Instead we have deteriorated at an alarming, even tragic rate."

Yet it is possible to end the housing shortage in short order simply by producing houses on the assembly line the way we produce automobiles, tanks and airplanes. "It is possible to divide a house into a small number of essential panels," Teague explains, "and set up an assembly line to produce each type of panel, all accurately dimensioned, held to high standards of quality and fabricated by swift machine methods. Houses assembled from these interchangeable parts can have a sturdiness and rigidity far beyond conventional construction . . . " Moreover, machine-made houses can be given far more diversity and beauty than is generally possible under the present, long outmoded methods of construction.

Such a house " a man can alter or enlarge by buying spare parts." He can disassemble it "and take with him, if he wants to, when he shifts his job, and turn in on a new model in ten or a dozen years when it becomes obsolete."

The price of this "bright, shining, handsome, completely equipped up-to-date machine for living" should be in about the same range as automobiles, between $1,000 and $2,500, Teague estimates.

Teague describes the possible equipment of such factory-made homes in some detail. "The refrigerator will become a set of compartments or drawers, rather like a filing cabinet, in which different temperatures will be maintained ranging from zero for frozen foods to 45 degrees for milk and vegetables . . . Ranges will be broken up into their component parts of cooking top, oven, and broiler, with a pressure cooker added, and these will be disposed where they are most accessible."

There will be a "radical change in cooking." At first infra-red rays will be the source of heat. The results will be quicker, more even and with less loss of essential vitamins.

Once industry gets going on such a home-building project, new conveniences will aim at putting an end to household drudgery. Dishes as we know them will survive only as heirlooms and works of art in Teague's opinion. "The majority of our dishes, forks and spoons will be molded or unbreakable synthetics, cheap, colorful and beautiful in design. After use they will be dumped into a hopper where they will be thoroughly cleaned, sterilized and dried, not to be touched until they are needed again. Many of these utensils will be disposable; after being used once they will go into a macerator, along with the garbage and other waste, to be ground to a pulp and flushed down the drain."

The first model houses to come off the assembly line will be equipped with year around air-conditioning. Air will be filtered, humidified, circulated and warmed or cooled according to the season. Later models will be equipped with improved radiant heating from walls, floor and ceiling, so that one feels perfect comfort in winter, neither too warm nor to cold. Teague visualizes for summer "a ceiling plate chilled to 150 degrees below zero—which would absorb the body's heat radiation."

The precipitron, an electronic device which is already being installed by the wealthy, coupled with air-conditioning will virtually eliminate the need for dusting since it removes "practically all dust and pollen particles by charging them electronically and collecting them on a metal plate."

As for lighting, this will at first be done by special pre-fabricated panels much superior to present lighting methods. Later models will be equipped still better. "Walls and ceilings coated with phosphor crystals will become luminous in the ultraviolet rays from concealed tubes, and thus we can obtain a much more generally diffused and higher illumination than by our present somewhat crude and wasteful method of reflecting visible light rays . . . Since this light can be either white or colored it will be possible to combine illumination with an interesting variety of decorative effects: we can change the color scheme or the mural decorations of a room by flipping a switch. This will satisfy that urge for change which inspires so many housewives to push the furniture around into new arrangements and has made the fortunes of wallpaper manufacturers."

Furniture "will be designed especially for the houses . . . Skillfully developed contours in our chairs and couches, the use of synthetic 'foam rubber' cushions, molded synthetics and plywood for structure, washable synthetic fabrics for coverings, will create an authentic new 'style' in furniture, to be carried out in all the conveniences that make up the equipment of homes rationally planned for human ease."

That will give you an idea of how the housing crisis could be ended, if the workers had the power to use America's industrial plant to better their standard of living. What could be done to our antiquated, out-of-date cities is even more inspiring.

—Joseph Hansen

(To be continued)

READ

Fourth International

Profiteers Defended In Congress Price "Probe"

Monopoly profiteers don't have to worry about the Congressional price-investigating subcommittee now conducting hearings in various cities for the alleged purpose of determining why prices are zooming.

Senator Ralph E. Flanders, Vermont Republican heading the committee in the East, has proved an ardent champion of the corporation against any charges that their super-profits are driving up the cost of living.

Last week Flanders went to bat for the food corporations. He flew into a rage at the New York City hearing when CIO spokesmen attributed rising food prices to corporate profiteering. His answer was to cite the unsubstantiated claim of the Armour & Co. meat trust that its profits amount to only 1.8 cents on the dollar of sales.

He ended up by giving a clean bill of health to the food corporations in a public statement claiming that the hearings have produced no evidence to prove that profiteering is responsible for the high prices.

The Senator blew his top when a union spokesman demanded that the committee subpoena Armour's books to determine its real profits, admitted and hidden. "We have no power to subpoena the books," shouted Flanders.

In whitewashing the corporations, Flanders used the typical lying and misleading arguments.

Take the case of Armour's. Its rate of profits on each dollar of sales has gone up 125% since 1939, a fact not mentioned by Flanders. Its rate of net profits on invested capital in 1946 was 10.9%. Its net profits after taxes in 1945 were 9 million dollars. In 1946—the year of the packer-imposed meat famine—the net profits were 21 millions.

Add to this—what Flanders also ignored—that 45 Armour executives lapped up extra gravy in the form of $1,197,000 in annual salaries.

Other facts Flanders did not mention were the statistics made public by the National City Bank. These show that in the first half of 1947 the food corporations made an annual return on their capital of 20.3%. Last year, it was 15.2%—even this was nearly three times the "modest" 6% usually claimed by the capitalists as "fair profit."

Still another illuminating bit of information the Senator didn't make available when he was discussing food profiteering, was the data of another Congressional committee, the Joint House-Senate committee on the President's economic report. This revealed that profits in the food processing industries have increased 212% since 1940, compared to an increase for all corporations of 111%. In short, food industry profits have swollen twice as much as all other profits.

The **Militant** of Sept. 15 disclosed some of the methods used by the capitalists to conceal how much they steal from the national income in the form of profits. For instance, the worker's income is figured before taxes. The capitalist figures his take after taxes.

Last year the corporation owners took, in the form of gross profits, 25% of corporation income. This year, with profits before taxes expected to be more than 30 billion dollars, they will slice themselves one-third of corporation income. With their hidden profits and huge salaries, the handful of owners will get about $2 for every $4 that goes to the workers.

That third of corporate production that goes to the bosses in the form of profits, admitted or concealed, tells the true story behind present high prices. That's the story Flanders is trying to suppress in his "probe."

Senators Slurp Soup As School Kids Go Without

"In their desire to shield the men who put over this legalized robbery of the public, the press has even overlooked one of the big human interest stories of the current session. This was the action of the United States Senate in voting $80,000 for hot bean soup for themselves, while cutting $10,000,000 from the appropriation for school lunches for children. It happened like this:

"The soup, most popular dish in the Senate restaurant, has been carried by the bowl up the stairs from the kitchen in the basement, and therefore has been cool by the time it reaches the Senatorial mouth. For $80,000 the dining room is being remodeled so that the kitchen will be on the same floor as the restaurant.

"The men who voted for this remodeling job apparently saw no inconsistency in voting to slash $10,000,000 from the school lunch budget, thereby taking some 67,000,000 lunches from the mouths of hungry kids. The school lunch outlay provided inexpensive lunches for 6,000,000 school children in 42,000 schools. For 12 cents or less, they received a hot lunch costing 27 cents, the Federal appropriation taking care of the difference. In New York City, for example, some 50,000 children receive free lunches, because they otherwise couldn't afford even the nominal amount charged. Now, while the Senators sip their hot bean soup, school authorities must figure out a way to skimp on the present lunches or else eliminate an average of six meals per student.

"Had enough?"

—From the Typographical Journal, official paper of the International Typographical Union, September, 1947.

SWP Resolution On Johnson-Forest Group

1. The Plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, held in New York February 15-16, 1947, adopted a resolution stating the conditions on which unity with the Workers Party would be possible and desirable. In line with this resolution a Joint Statement on unification of the two parties was signed by the National Committee of the SWP and the National Committee of the WP on March 11, 1947.

2. Immediately after the signing of the Joint Statement the Majority of the leadership of the WP pursued a policy and a course of conduct in violation of the spirit of the Joint Statement and thereby obstructed the collaboration between the two parties and prevented the projected consummation of the unity up till this time. Simultaneously, the violent and unjustified factional struggle waged by the majority of the leadership of the WP against its pro-unity Johnson-Forest minority cast doubt on the good faith of the WP signers of the Joint Statement and still further hampered and obstructed the development towards unity.

3. As a result, the Johnson-Forest minority of the WP on July 14, 1947 formally notified the Political Committee of the WP that its members were resigning from the WP as of that date and, at the same time, they applied for membership in the SWP.

4. The Johnson-Forest Group, despite some serious political differences with the SWP, has demonstrated in practice that it accepts in good faith the February Plenum resolution and the Joint Statement on unification, that it has a loyal attitude toward the movement and a sincere desire to collaborate in the building of the party by entering the SWP. The Workers Party, on its part, has publicly declared, in the issue of **Labor Action** of July 28, 1947 that "The WP cannot and will not offer any objection" to the admission of the Johnsonites into the SWP.

5. Therefore, the August Plenum of the National Committee of the SWP, meeting jointly with the Party Organizers Institute at Grass Lake, Michigan, August 17-23, 1947 decides, without prejudice to further negotiations with the WP and the eventual execution of the Joint Statement of the two parties on unification, to authorize the Political Committee to admit all members of the Johnson-Forest group into the SWP not later than October 1, 1947, with full membership rights and party membership status dating from the time they first joined either the WP or the SWP. The Plenum further directs that they be given fair representation in all party committees and institutions, at least in proportion to their numerical strength.

Apply for Membership in SWP

September 24, 1947

TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SWP:

We the undersigned who formerly constituted the minority of the Workers Party have severed our relations with this organization and hereby apply for membership in the Socialist Workers Party. In doing so we fully accept the conditions laid down in the resolution of the February 15-16 Plenum of the National Committee of the SWP regarding unification of the SWP and the WP, and the later Joint Statement on Unification adopted by the two organizations.

The minority has long wanted to join the SWP despite the differences of opinion on some questions which we have frankly stated in a number of documents, but hitherto refrained from doing so in the expectation that a general unification would soon be effected. The failure of the leadership of the WP to effect the unification on the terms agreed upon with the SWP obliged us to take this step toward unification on our own account.

At this time when regroupments are taking place all over the world among those who subscribe to the principles of Trotskyism, we consider our step to be not only of national, but of international significance. Our application testifies to our conviction, based on experience, that only under the banner of the SWP can the American party of world socialism be built.

(signed)

RESIGNED FROM THE WORKERS PARTY

New York: J. R. Johnson; F. Forest; Martin Harvey; Ria Stone; Tom Brown; **Bob Lowell;** Ike Blake; Ruth Philips; Leon Matthews; **Estelle Cobbs;** Thomas Young; **Allen Webb;** Charlotte Bright; Harry Cooper; **Leah Dillon;** Freddy Dutton; Adele C.; Jessie Startgen; Frank Reardon; Julie Soyer; Pearl Pierce; **Emma** Barrymore; Kay Webb.

Newark: Phil Romano.

Cleveland: George Tobin; Ray O'Neill.

Chicago: Dave Miller.

West Virginia: Frank Rossi; Morgan West; Marion Forrester; Simon Williams; R. E. De Haven; William B.; Henry D.; Thomas B.; Andrew S.

Philadelphia: Sol Allen; Irv Marnin; **Olga** Daniels; Nettie; James London; **Micky Bryant;** Bernie Wells; Bill Miller; Sol Hawks.

San Francisco Bay Area: William Gorman; Filomena Tonetti; Bill Kaye; **Margaret Kaye;** Dickson Wods; George Herndon; Sarah Evans.

Detroit: John Hayden; Fred Knight; **Rae** Mantler; Dave Andrews; Seymour Lyons; **Betty** Saunders; Jack Meade; Peter Norden; **Arthur** Parks; Edith Neumann.

Los Angeles: Bess Gordon; **Ted Roberts;** Richard Page; Mitzi Conrad; Fred **Norman;** Ceil Weber.

Youth: Arthur Kent; Arthur Barriet; **Zeb** Blake; Shirley Stevens; Abby **Anderson;** Madeleine Kramer; Selma.

JOINED DURING INTERIM PERIOD

Philadelphia: Irma Stein; Wesley Whitman; Julie Carson; William Browning; Ed Burns.

San Francisco Bay Area: Smithie; Josephine Sweeney; S. Smith; Jim Hearn.

Los Angeles: Esther Kaylin.

Workers' Forum

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant." Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you want your name printed.

We Are Hoping for Hickman's Acquittal

Editor:

The following letter, with a contribution enclosed, was sent to the Hickman Defense Committee in Chicago:

Dear Friends:

We have read the story of James Hickman in **The Militant**, a newspaper running a week-to-week fight for the rights of the common man, colored and white.

The revelation of injustices dealt him by society has touched us deeply. If emotion were money we could send you thousands of dollars; as it is, we are unable to send you more than one.

We will be waiting to hear what the verdict will be on James Hickman's life. Not that it will be a part of the daily news broadcasts or the capitalist press dispatches, but we will hear through one paper that prints the every-day calamities of the people: **The Militant.**

We deeply and sincerely hope for an acquittal.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Cloud of Doubt About Revolutionary Victory

Editor:

Whenever I read in your excellent newspaper the phrase, "the working people themselves must take over the control and management of the plants and factories," I must admit that a cloud of doubt descends upon my mind.

I must first make plain the fact that capitalism has bungled the job of running society. I must admit that the bloody heads and the starving bodies of millions of our citizens offer mute evidence of the sins that capital has committed.

Yet, I must also admit that the average worker, whom I know and like and admire, is just not equipped to take over the management of any plant or factory. Whether we approve of him or not, the manager of the average plant has skill and training and experience to contribute to his job. These are things that require the expenditure of money and time and effort; and these are the very factors which the worker did not have when he was young enough to take advantage of public education and after-school training courses.

I believe that it would be possible to build up a new set of managers, personnel technicians, engineers and the like from the children of our working classes. I believe that almost anyone can learn almost any subject. Yet this is a long hard pull. It takes time. The children yet unborn would be needed and they would have to receive special food and treatment if they are to constitute our new "elite."

Yet nowhere have I read in your paper the idea that this "taking over" would be anything but a simple and commonplace task. Coal miners would don blue serge suits and step into the front office. Salesgirls would immediately begin working as personnel technicians or advertising managers. The president of U. S. Steel would begin to take lessons in elevator-operating. Just like that!

But it cannot be as easy as you picture it. And because it is not, because you have never said that the poverty-stricken and the slum-shocked and the psychotic will not "inherit the earth" at your mythical "day of judgment," you are guilty of filling the minds of thousands of poor people with impossible dreams. Like the Church, you promise what you cannot hope to give.

Say it. Say that the elevator operator and the mechanical engineer will not exchange places just because the cards of fate once placed them on different rungs of the economic hierarchy. Say that education, training and experience are needed for any job, and that the bigger the job the more of these factors are needed. Say that the revolution that will have to come will never eliminate the class that Dr. Curt Reizler calls "the experts."

This is your duty. You must not delude your poor readers, workers in puny little jobs like I myself hold with any grandiose dreams of what life after the revolution will be for them.

Bart Lanier Stafford, III
New York, N. Y.

ED. NOTE: What do our readers think about this? Write in your opinion.

Friends Abroad Read The Militant Avidly

Editor:

The readers and boosters of **The Militant** will be happy, I'm sure, to read in these few lines about the growing circulation and expanding influence of the only paper in the United States which tells the unadulterated truth about the struggles of the working men and women for a new and better life.

Recently I received letters from friends in Mexico and Puerto Rico. The former saw a copy of **The Militant** on sale at a newsstand on one of the main streets in Mexico City. Need I add that he immediately bought a copy and avidly read it.

From Puerto Rico another friend writes that he looks forward to each new copy of **The Militant** with great eagerness. He sees **The Militant** as a staunch and stalwart supporter of the Puerto Rican masses in their untiring fight for complete national independence and for freedom from the political, economic, and military stranglehold of Wall Street imperialism.

While I'm at it, I might mention that another young worker, a merchant seaman whom I introduced to **The Militant**, wrote from Finland not long ago and discussed some of the questions brought out in **The Militant.** Excelsior!

A Reader
Chicago, Ill.

British Fascists Getting Bolder

Editor:

In various forms, and under various aliases, the British fascists are hard at it. They are building up the nucleus of what shows every sign of becoming a very ugly organization. Nothing much seems to be being done about it. The Trade Union Congress passes resolutions, now and again, and Chuter Ede, the Home Secretary, writes a letter to the **New Statesman and Nation** defending the right of fascists to hold meetings, and incite murder, robbery and racial hatred.

Every week about a dozen anti-fascists are arrested for the criminal offense of shouting "Down With Fascism." Our "Socialist" government is acting curiouser and curiouser. Meanwhile the fascist parties grow stronger, under the gentle guidance and loving approval of our gracious English knight, Sir Oswald Mosley.

I don't know what the average American's opinion is of the British act in sending the 4,500 illegal emigrants back to concentration camps in Hamburg. The British public seemed to take it very calmly. One of our national dailies even mentioned that the camps were to be operated by German personnel, many of whom were running the camps under Hitler. But, however, it was added that everything was to be supervised by British officers, so that made it allright, and no one raised any objections.

I wonder if the camps are being run by the same officers who supervised the enforced landing of the Jews at Hamburg, with the aid of hoses and truncheons. At a different time, and by a different government, this act might be reported in the British press as sadistic and barbaric.

Bernard Hanison
London, England

The European Jew

He stands and looks at us with hunted eyes,
His heart is filled with dread and clogging fear,
He does not understand the mystery
Of scorn and hatred heaped upon him there;
The memory of the bitter centuries
Is not more poignant than the present is.

How terrible it is that in this world,
For share in which he has no means to fight,
There is no place that he can call his own,
No country, and no city, and no right;
No little homestead that his fathers held,
From which he may not some day be expelled.

It is preposterous that a nation should
Be so despoiled, and all the world look on
And make no move to help, or feel a pang,
Or seek to put a stop to so much wrong;
Were he not so defenseless, would we dare,
To label him an outcast everywhere?

Let us be careful how we too deny
This man the rights that other men enjoy,
Behold him waiting, mute without the gate,
With none to welcome, or to give employ;
His heart is heavy, and his steps are slow,
In all this great wide world, where shall he go?

Gimilda Forbes
Boston, Mass.

Branches Report Good Response to Militant Fund Drive

By Rose Karsner

The complete Score Board, showing the quotas and contributions by the Socialist Workers Party branches to the Militant Fund, will be printed in the next (Oct. 13) issue of this paper. As of this week, 14 branches have not yet sent in any remittance against their quotas. We urge these branches to do everything possible to make a partial payment in time to wipe the zeroes off the Board.

Allentown, Reading, Rochester, San Diego and West Virginia have not yet informed us of their acceptance of the quotas. All other branches have responded.

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE: For the information of all concerned, we repeat: The deadline for copy for this column is Monday of each week.

Judging by the correspondence received this past week, members of the Socialist Workers Party are responding with enthusiasm to the Militant Fund Campaign.

FROM THE BRANCHES

LOS ANGELES—Myra Tanner: "The Fund Drive opened with a bang this week. The West Side branch was the first to adopt a quota ($500) and has already paid $150 toward it. The preliminary reports from other branches indicate that all the comrades are very serious about our determination to go way over the top on the Local quota of $1,500.

"At our nine-day Summer Camp we made a substantial profit which enabled us to wipe out our debts and cleared the decks for the Militant Fund drive. Enclosed find check."

TWIN CITIES—Wally: "Our campaign got under way with a very auspicious start. At a joint membership meeting of Minneapolis and St. Paul last Sunday, we recorded a grand total of $1,079 in pledges. Quite noteworthy in the matter of pledges is the $5 one made by comrade Martin Soderberg who is 81 years old and living on the meager subsistence of an old age pension.

"Through all the years, and through all the suffering and privation in his declining years, this splendid comrade's courage and devotion never once faltered. We feel that his contribution to the Fund is by far the biggest and best $5 we have ever seen."

FLINT—Genora: "Flint Branch by action of its membership has accepted the quota of $200 assigned. We have not discussed the Militant Ball but shall reach a decision on this at our next Executive Committee meeting and notify you of our plans."

PITTSBURGH—El: "We hereby accept the quota of $150 and enclose a small payment to wipe out the zero on the first Score Board. We are determined to pitch hard and make the quota which is modest compared with what we should like to do."

NEW YORK—D. Conway: "In order to meet our large quota we are following the same method we used successfully in previous campaigns. Every branch is given a weekly quota which represents the amount the branch should aim at collecting each week throughout the entire campaign.

"This figure is arrived at by dividing the branch pledge by the number of weeks left in the campaign. Our purpose is to get every comrade to make a small weekly payment, thus enabling the branches to keep a constant even pace and not have to put on feverish pressure in the last weeks.

"We are also going to make special efforts to reach every sympathizer for a contribution. What we raise in this manner, together with the proceeds of the Militant Ball, will enable us to reach 100% of our quota comfortably."

The total received through Monday, Sept. 29 was $1,385.25.

Received from the branches during the last week: Buffalo $51; Flint $20.50; Los Angeles $150; New York $291.50; Pittsburgh, $10; St. Louis $23; Twin Cities $100; A Reader Friend $2.

The three top branches are St. Louis with 96% of its quota paid. Youngstown with 33% and Newark with 31%.

A Reader Answers Our Open Letter

Two days after the publication of our Open Letter asking readers for stories, letters and funds to help **The Militant**, we received the following letter:

"Enclosed find $2 as my contribution to the Militant Fund drive. I regret that I cannot contribute more at this time. Here's hoping that the drive goes over the top. If every reader contributed at least $2 the Fund would be easily raised.

"Keep up the good fight against the corrupt capitalist system and against the lackeys of capitalism. Help speed the day when mankind will live in peace and will be able, for the first time in history, to enjoy real security in a socialist world.

(Signed) A Friend,
Member of ILGWU,
Bronx, N. Y."

We take this occasion to thank our anonymous friend for the contribution and to express the hope that many readers will follow this example.

Quotas for the Militant Fund

(Tentative Quotas)

City	Quota
Akron	$ 300
Allentown-Bethlehem	75
Boston	275
Buffalo	600
Chicago	1,500
Cleveland	250
Connecticut	200
Detroit	600
Flint	200
Los Angeles	1,500
Lynn	125
Massillon-Canton	50
Milwaukee	200
Newark	500
New York City	4,500
Oakland	250
Philadelphia	300
Pittsburgh	150
Reading	150
Rochester	25
St. Louis	50
San Diego	100
San Francisco	1,250
Seattle	300
Tacoma	25
Toledo	200
Twin Cities	1,000
West Virginia	25
Youngstown	600
TOTAL RECEIVED THROUGH SEPT. 29	**$1,385.25**

Court Hearing Held On SWP, WP Right To Philadelphia Ballot

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 29—A hearing on a writ of mandamus was held before Judge Harry S. McDevitt last Friday. At the hearing David H. H. Felix, attorney for the Socialist Workers Party and Workers Party, challenged the County Board of Elections to show cause for its rejection on Sept. 4 of the nomination papers for Irene P. LeCompte, SWP candidate for City Council from the 7th District.

Called to the stand were Morton Witkin, chairman of the County Board of Elections, and Assistant Chief Clerk McDonald.

Felix asked a number of questions regarding the United Veterans Party and the Communist Party, also ruled off the ballot. With both these, the SWP and the WP ruled off, it will mean no independent candidates in the municipal elections on Nov. 4.

As each question was asked by Felix, the Election Board's counsel, Mr. Connor, entered objection. Each time the objection was sustained. The judge stated that this was no investigation of the Board, that only one question would be decided—should or shouldn't Irene Le Compte's name go on the ballot?

The same thing happened when Felix asked questions about papers filed in the primaries for Republicans and Democrats. He had examined these papers and found in them many of the "irregularities" which are being used as the basis for barring the SWP and WP.

Since the case of the WP is essentially the same as that of the SWP, only the SWP's case was presented. The opposing attorneys agreed they would be bound in both cases by the decision on the SWP candidate. If the decision must be appealed to the State Supreme Court, only one case need be entered.

The opposing attorneys, Felix and Connor, are to submit briefs today. DeDevitt will render a decision in the near future. The next steps in the fight for the right of minority parties to appear on the ballot will depend partly on that decision.

New York SWP Urges Workers To Register

NEW YORK, Oct. 2 — All workers were strongly urged to go to the registration booths between Oct. 6 and Oct. 11 to register for the November elections in a statement issued here today by George Clarke, New York organizer of the Socialist Workers Party. The statement continued:

"Although 1947 may not appear to be an important election year in the eyes of many voters, it is extremely important that the maximum registration take place.

"One of the important questions on the ballot next November will be the question of Proportional Representation. The Democratic and Republican bosses are now bent on destroying this system which provides an opportunity for trade unionists and minority groups such as the Negro people to elect representatives to the city council. You cannot vote to save PR unless you register next week.

"Another burning question is the coming referendum initiated by the banks and the O'Dwyer machine to raise the fare on subway and surface transportation. Although the referendum on this question will not occur until early next year, an attempt may be made to prevent those from voting who fail to register now. To save the five cents fare, make sure to register next week.

"Finally, this appeal is especially directed to the voters of the 23rd Senatorial District. Support for the program of the Socialist Workers Party and its candidate Robert Williams cannot be translated into action at the ballot unless you register."

Won't You Help The Militant?

CLIP COUPON—MAIL TO-DAY

The Militant Fund
116 University Pl.
New York 3, N. Y.

Enclosed find $—— to help THE MILITANT in its fight for a world of peace and plenty for all.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone .....

State .....

THE MILITANT ARMY

Flint Swings into Action On Fall Sub Campaign

The comrades in the **Flint Branch** are seriously at work on their fall subscription campaign. The first week they netted 8 new readers to **The Militant. El Snyder**, Literature Director, writes: "We started our campaign by dividing our branch into four teams. At the termination of the campaign, the winning team will be given a party by the three losing teams. We are all very anxious to really get started and see which team will get the highest number of subs."

* * *

A. H. tells how four subs were obtained by the **Minneapolis** comrades: "Two of the subs were secured by a comrade in a chance encounter with two American Indians stopping over in Minneapolis on their way home to Tokio, N. D., and Greeley, Colo. The other two were secured by a comrade who attended a funeral and got the subs after the service.

"In Minneapolis we say: 'Subs are where you find them!' "

* * *

The comrades of the **Connecticut State Branch** are going after renewal-subs. **Gene Abel** sent in 7 they obtained this week.

* * *

Literature Agent, **Rena Breshi**, of **Boston** reports that "Comrade **Belle Patch** obtained the three subs enclosed. She meets new people at friends' houses and talks up the paper to them. She generally succeeds in getting them to subscribe to **The Militant.**"

* * *

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party are making final plans for the **19th Anniversary Militant Celebration** to be held from coast-to-coast November 9-15.

Here is what the **Chicago Local** plans, according to **Miriam Roberts:** "The Social Committee decided that the best way to put **The Militant Ball** across would be in the form of a cabaret-style social. Several of the comrades are professional entertainers and also know a number of professionals who seem to be willing to perform for the night of November 15, the night of our social. We will have singers and perhaps a dancer and a skit or two. Plans are now in effect for the decorating of the huge hall here at 777 W. Adams Street. We have the benefit of the ideas of three friends who are studying art and photography. These friends are eager to work with us and help us with our plans.

"We will have an orchestra—a 6-piece orchestra—since that seems to attract more of a crowd than just 'canned' music."

* * *

The **Akron Branch** will celebrate the 19th Anniversary of **The Militant** on November 30 with movies—a Charlie Chaplin film burlesquing Carmen, and Robert Benchley's Treasurer's Report.

* * *

The following **Militant** boosters are making sure their friends read the paper.

A. F. B. of Mohnton, Pa., sent in a subscription for a friend in Lyons, Pa.

M. H. of Newark, N. J., subscribed to **The Militant** for a friend in Lakewood, N. J.

R. J. of Chicago renewed his own sub and sent in a new sub for his friend.

Cleveland HCL Probe Achieves Nothing

By Almeda Kingsley

CLEVELAND, Sept. 29 — The Bender mid-continent Congressional committee to investigate high living costs closed its sessions here last week without giving the slightest sign of relief or hope for harried housewives struggling with the problems induced by inflation.

A steady stream of witnesses—industrialists, businessmen, consumer and labor spokesmen—testified before the committee. The profiteers naturally denied that profits had anything to do with soaring prices.

Charles M. White, president of Republic Steel Company, insisted steel price rises had no effect on increased living costs, which were due to the fact that "we are feeding millions of hungry people in Europe." Prices, he said, would just have to "follow their normal flow."

"There has been only a puny bit of profiteering among business firms," said Jay D. Runkle, vice-president of a Detroit department store. He denied that returning prices to pre-war levels was "a reasonable objective."

Joseph R. Gibbons, official of the local retail food chain, Fisher Bros., typified the businessmen's cynicism when he coldly blamed the consumer who is "choosy about the type of meat he wants."

REAL SUFFERERS

While the capitalist agents at the hearing presented an aggressive defense of their own interests, the consumer and labor spokesmen did not do as well from their own point of view. They presented plenty of facts and figures to show that the workers and consumers were the ones really suffering from rising prices, but they had no effective program to preserve on living standards.

Their emphasis was on price control, excessive profits tax, price rollback, etc. But their only means for achieving these measures was to plead with Congress for them—the same Congress which has repeatedly shown by its record that it is the friend and servant of the profiteers.

Jacob Clayman, attorney for the Ohio CIO Council, struck the only inflammatory spark of the hearing when he charged the committee had pre-judged the issues in a preliminary research report before the hearing and said the people "have the idea that this investigation is purely window dressing."

He noted that the committee report "gave a clean bill of health to big business, the manufacturer, farmer, wholesaler and retailer. The only criminal seems to be the worker and his pay check."

In contrast to the respectful way the Big Business spokesmen were handled, the committee took great delight in trying to embarrass the union spokesmen and to get them to admit that wages should be frozen. Some of the spokesmen, particularly the Stalinists, did not respond too well. **In fact, Nathan Zahm, executive secretary of the Progressive Citizens of America, actually agreed to the wage-freezing proposition when he was questioned.**

The committee members had little or nothing to say about how to combat rising prices. Senator Sparkman (D.-Ala.) went so far as to say that high prices would have to continue because of the big national debt: "We've simply entered a new day; that's all."

But there was no reason to expect this committee and the others like it to do anything effective. If they were really interested in action against the HCL, they would have stayed in Washington and subpoenaed the books of the monopoly food corporations and tried to do something about the fabulous profits which are one of the main sources of high prices. But of course they would never think of such measures.

In part, the fight against high prices is a political fight. If we want action on high prices in Washington, we must elect to office genuine representatives of labor and the consumers.

PHILADELPHIA
Film Showing of
"NATIVE LAND"
with Paul Robeson
and large cast
Saturday, October 11, 8:30 p. m.
New Century Club Auditorium
124 South 12th St.
Subscription: 75 cents
Sponsored by
Philadelphia Chapter American Committee for European Workers Relief
1303 W. Girard
Phones: EV. 6-8755 — ST. 4-5820

NEWARK
Militant Labor Forum
Friday, Oct. 10—8:30 P. M.
GEORGE CLARKE
on
The CIO's Fight Against The Taft-Hartley Slave Law.
423 Springfield Ave.
Admission Free

NEW HAVEN
HICKMAN DEFENSE MEETING
Speaker: RAYMOND ROSS
Place: New Haven Labor School
855 Grand Ave.
Date: Oct. 6, 8:30 P. M.
Admission: Free

NOTICE
The Philadelphia Chapter of ACEWR is in need of a sewing machine—to mend old clothes and make new garments. Call EV. 6-8755 and ask for Goldy Geldman.

Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers at these Local Activities of

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

AKRON—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open Mon. through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 2 to 4 p.m.

BOSTON—30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO—**Militant** Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone MAdison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday.

CHICAGO—777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Phone Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore.

CLEVELAND — **Militant** Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St., (off Wade Park Ave.).

DETROIT — 6108 Linwood Ave., phone TY. 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.

FLINT—215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

LOS ANGELES—**Militant** publishing Assn., 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.

SAN PEDRO—**Militant** publishing Assn.,—1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

LYNN, Mass. — 44 Central Square, Room 11. Discussion every Tuesday 7:30 p.m; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.

MILWAUKEE—**Militant** Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St. Open 12 to 4:30 p.m.; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays.

MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Phone Main 7781 Library, bookstore.
Sunday Forums, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN—**Labor School**, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open every Monday, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

NEWARK — 423 Springfield Ave. Phone BIgelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.
Friday night forum, 8:30.

NEW YORK CITY HQ., 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149.

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St. Room 23. MO. 2-1866.
Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.

CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

OAKLAND, Cal.—Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410-11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351.

PHILADELPHIA—1302-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily. Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

PITTSBURGH—1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor. Phone Court 6060
Open meetings every 1st and third Sundays at 3:30 p.m.
Marxist Study Class every Thursday 7-9 p.m. 1418 Fifth Ave.

SAN DIEGO—Headquarters 432 F St., R. 213. Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO—1739 Fillmore St., 4th floor, San Francisco 15. Open noon to 4:30 p.m. except Sunday. Phone FI 6-0410.

SEATTLE—1919½ Second Ave. Open 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 12 to 5 p.m. Sat.
Phone SE 0453 Library, bookstore.
Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Basic Training Class.

ST. LOUIS—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312. Forums, Fridays, 7:30—10 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

ST. PAUL—540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2. Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30 p.m.

TACOMA, Wash.—Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Odd Fellows Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

TOLEDO — 113 St. Clair St., 2nd floor. Open daily.

YOUNGSTON — 302 Leedy Bldg., 115 E. Federal St.
Open 12-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

THE MILITANT

PAGE SIX | NEW YORK, N. Y. | MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1947

Diary of a Steel Worker

Will You Sleep So Well?

By Theodore Kovalesky

Let's not mince any words or beat about the bush. I'm going to put it to you squarely; then you do as your conscience tells you.

You are carrying a heavy responsibility. A man's life hangs in the balance, and you can do something to save it . . . if you want to.

Of course, you're not the only one. There are hundreds, thousands, millions of other people who bear the same responsibility. Whether or not they'll do what's right, you and I don't know. But I'm talking to YOU. I'm asking, will you do YOUR share?

* * *

At night when we go to bed in our homes, James Willis Hickman lies on his cot in a Chicago jail. At night we can sleep soundly in our beds; the next day's work and sweat awaits us, but we're sort of used to that. But I don't think Jim Hickman sleeps so well in his cell. He doesn't have to think about tomorrow's job: for him yesterday meant horror and tragedy, and tomorrow may bring . . . the electric chair.

If you don't know about Jim Hickman, or what his case has to do with you, let me give you a little biography. He's a Negro who came from Mississippi. He's a Negro who came to the North with his wife and kids, looking for a land where a man could give what was in him and get a decent life with a little security in return. That's a fair enough bargain to drive with the world, isn't it?

He came to Chicago in 1045 and went to work in the steel mills. He worked and saved for seven months until he could send for his family. They must have had wonderful dreams about the north. They didn't know . . .

Chicago didn't spread out the welcome mat for the Hickmans. Chicago took Jim's sweat and labor in its great mills, but it wouldn't give him a place to keep his family.

He pounded the pavements looking for a home. When he was at work his wife searched. But it wasn't easy, and when he met a man named David Coleman who offered him a four room flat for $50 a month you can imagine how great it seemed. Coleman demanded and got $100 in advance . . . and the family of nine moved into an attic room sixteen feet long and fourteen feet wide for $6 a week to wait until the flat should be vacant.

It was a funny thing, though: the flat remained occupied, and Coleman kept taking the $6. There were no lights in the room, no gas, no water. There was only one little window. But what could they do? Where could they go? Jim wanted his $100 back, but Coleman wouldn't give it to him.

Then Coleman told him to move, told all the tenants to move so he could make kitchenette apartments and charge more rent. Where could they go? When they refused he threatened them. ' "I'll burn you out," Coleman told Jim.

Did he do it? Well, there was a fire in the house. It started mysteriously in the attic near the Hickmans' room. An unknown stranger raced through the house warning the other tenants. Nobody warned the Hickmans.

Mrs. Hickman and two sons escaped with injuries, but in the confusion four young children from three to fourteen years old were left. They hid under the bed. Remember when you were a kid? How you crawled under the bed for safety? That's what they did, but it wasn't any good. You can't hide like that from flames.

That was on the sixteenth of January. Six months later to the day James Willis Hickman shot David Coleman.

* * *

The law deals in technicalities. What Hickman did they call murder, and they kill a man for doing it. The law doesn't look at things like a housing shortage. It doesn't convict a housing shortage of murder, even though it may be the housing shortage that's really guilty.

The law has James Hickman today. It has him locked in a cement and steel jailhouse. This month the law is trying James Hickman to see if it can shoot electricity through his body and murder him for avenging his children.

And that's where you come in, brother. Your help is needed, your money and your letters of protest. If you don't help, and if they kill Jim Hickman, will you sleep so well in your bed?

The Negro Struggle

A Crucial Period Ahead

By Albert Parker

A reader says: "I have no quarrel with your answer to George F. McCray in the Sept 15 **Militant** on the need for all oppressed minorities to join together in common action against their enemies, the plutocrats. But don't you think you are laying it on a little thick when you imply that during the coming depression the enemies of the Negro people are going to try to 'deport or destroy' us?"

No, I don't think I was laying it on at all. I think I was just expressing briefly and without any exaggeration a danger that may face the Negro people not very many years from now. And because I think it is a real danger, I would like to discuss it in some detail here.

Some people think that the struggle for Negro equality follows a straight path—that is consists in gradually winning a few rights in this field and getting some recognition in that field and that thus, over the years, the promised land will be reached eventually. Things are bad now, but they're getting better slowly all the time and some day each of the individual Jim Crow practices will have been overcome and then the fight will be over.

Unfortunately, things don't work out that way. The society we live in does not proceed along such a smooth and even course, and the Negro struggle is profoundly affected by the development of society as a whole. During the war, for example, when there was a labor shortage and the capitalist system in this country needed more production if it was going to win the war, it was easier than at other times for Negroes to get jobs in the factories. At that time, therefore, there was a great leap forward in Negro employment—not just a gradual advance.

The depression is also going to have a shattering effect on Negroes. Dark-skinned workers are going to be hit first because they have the least seniority, and there will be fierce competition for jobs not only in the plants but also in other less-desirable jobs. Such a development may throw Negro employment further back than it was before the war.

Not only that, but a depression will nourish all the reactionary and fascistic tendencies in this country, just as it was beginning to do shortly before the war. The fascist hoodlums will try to divert the people's attention from capitalism, the real cause of depression and poverty, by picking scapegoats to blame everything on: Yes, they will pick on the Jews, just as the Nazis did—but who can pretend they won't pick on the Negroes too? As long ago as 1939 Leon Trotsky warned: "Fascism in the United States will be directed against the Jews and the Negroes, but against the Negroes particularly, and in a most terrible manner." And I well remember what I heard a Coughlinite fascist say at a demonstration that same year when he saw a Negro member of the Socialist Workers Party distributing some anti-fascist literature: "A nigger is a kike turned inside out."

The coming depression will provoke a social as well as an economic crisis. It will speed up all the developments and struggles very sharply. It can result in throwing the Negro struggle back for decades just as, on the other hand, it can propel it forward to undreamed-of successes if the workers are able to take advantage of the situation. I have exhausted my space here but not the subject, so I will return to it again next week.

We Want Meat!

By Grace Carlson

One reads that Senator Taft's infamous advice to the American workers to "eat less"—especially less meat—was made after he had just gone through a big steak at a Bar Association barbecue at Santa Cruz, California. This comes as no surprise. One takes it for granted that the well-nourished Senator and his nicely-cushioned wife have chawed through many a steak in their rich lifetime.

But it is a little surprising to find out that the highly-educated Senator Taft is so thick-headed that he doesn't understand that the workers aren't eating much meat these days. What working-class housewife includes porterhouse steak at $1.10 a lb. or pork chops at 95 cents a lb. on the family table? And, for Senator Taft's information, even the "cheaper" cuts of meat don't look very cheap to the worried worker. Beef liver at 55 cents a lb. may be the kind of food that is fed to the Taft cats but it is much too expensive to be a regular item on the daily menu of the average working class home.

And it's workers who need meat, not Senators! Men who are doing hard physical work need more protein food than do other sections of the population. Proteins are found in all kinds of cereals, nuts and vegetables but **first-class proteins** are found only in foods of animal origin—meat, eggs and cheese. At a recent nutritional conference, Professor Paul Cannon of the University of Chicago declared that giving hungry people what have been lightly called the "energy foods" is not enough. Such foods, bread, cereals and other cheap carbohydrates, will satisfy hunger but they will not rebuild broken-down tissues nor will they build muscles.

Proteins are of first importance in body chemistry and a lack of animal proteins in the diet will sharply impair the body's functioning. Such symptoms as low blood pressure, nervousness, fatigue, frequent infections, insomnia are often due to a lack of eggs, meat, and cheese. In addition, there may be pressure pains in the head, gastro-intestinal distress, disturbed vision, cataracts, skin trouble, and, very frequently, edema or swelling of the feet and legs.

Workers who answer the Tafts and the Trumans by saying, "We want meat—and we want the kind of wages that will give us a chance to buy enough meat," are following the very best medical advice!

Notes from the News

FITTING CHOICE—Senator James H. McGrath of Rhode Island, the new Democratic National Committee chairman, was one of the backers of the Truman Doctrine aid-to-Greece bill.

* * *

FREEDOM OF PRESS—An advertising boycott forced Don Matchan to sell his paper, the Valley City (N. Dak.) **Times-Record.** Local business interests found the paper too friendly to labor, too critical of the Truman Doctrine.

* * *

OUR WAY OF LIFE—A bill to abolish use of the lash in Alabama prisons has just been killed in the State Legislature.

* * *

CHILD LABOR—There are a million children in the U. S. who didn't go back to school this year because they had to work, states CIO Publicity Director Allan L. Swim.

* * *

DOUBLING UP—The Census Bureau reports that 2,764,000 married couples are sharing households with other families.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS—The Catholic Church, recently in the news for allowing some Negro students into parochial schools in St. Louis, operates Jim Crow schools throughout the South.

* * *

"FREEDOM TRAIN"?—A picket line and leaflet distribution by conscientious objectors calling for an amnesty of COs still in prison was brutally broken up by police as the "Freedom Train" pulled into Grand Central Station in New York. Twenty pickets and distributors were arrested.

* * *

CHICKEN COOP EVICTION—Mr. and Mrs. Payette of Cleveland and their three small children are being evicted for the third time in 15 months. They are now being ousted from a 14 x 6 foot chicken coop by city authorities.

* * *

PLAY BANNED—The Broadway musical, Annie Get Your Gun, has been banned in Memphis because it shows friendly relations between Negro trainmen and white passengers. Said the censors "It's social equality in action." Besides: "We don't have Negro conductors in the South."

Detroit Motorcade Asks Action On Rent Control and Evictions

DETROIT, Sept. 28 — A motorcade of more than 250 residents went to Lansing yesterday to demand that Governor Sigler and the special session of the Legislature immediately pass a state law freezing all rents and declaring a moratorium on evictions. Sigler is opposed to any consideration of rents or evictions until the regular session of the Legislature in January.

The demonstration was sponsored jointly by the Greater Detroit Tenants Council, the UAW Housing Department and the Wayne County CIO Council. Three chartered buses and private cars took the indignant tenants to the state capitol, where the first stop was the hall of Olds Local 652 of the UAW.

Jack Lesnik, vice-president of the Wayne County CIO Council and organizer of the demonstration, outlined the tasks facing the tenants in Michigan. Ernest Dillard, chairman of the Brewster Project Tenants Council, spoke on the solidarity of white and Negro tenants and the similarity of their problems.

R. J. Thomas, CIO national housing director, was introduced and led the tenants out to the street in a march to the steps of the capitol.

Traffic was snarled as the participants in the march, stretching out for a full block and a half, proceeded right down the middle of the main street. Thousands of Lansing citizens lined the streets and applauded the colorful demonstration, which was paced by the Ford Local 600 sound truck.

On the capitol steps Thomas laced it into Sigler for trying to dodge "the hot potato of rent control." He pointed out that the governor lives in a hotel suite and won't have to worry about the harsh Michigan winters, or having to feed his family.

"Sigler won't have to worry, but a lot of people will," Thomas declared. "A total of 400 families is being evicted every week in Detroit. This is a responsibility that the governor cannot evade."

The tenants then crossed the street and set up a picket line in front of the Hotel Olds, home of Sigler and most of the legislators. They carried signs reading: "Evict Kim Sigler," "Freeze Rents," "We Had Foxholes, Now Give Us Homes," "Stop Evictions," etc.

Many Lansing tenants joined the line as it wound its way single file around the block.

The pickets re-formed on the street in front of the hotel and led by the sound truck resumed their march. Half way back to the union hall the line was stopped by a squad of motor cycle cops who had orders to haul in the sound truck for violating a city ordinance.

The jailing of Lesnik and the driver and the impounding of the truck were prevented only by the action of the tenants in reversing their field and beginning a march on the police station.

The case was then summarily dismissed, and the truck was escorted back to the tenants who broke out with the singing of Solidarity.

Two Baskets Tell Story

Mrs. Nissa Feldman of the League of Women Shoppers carried these two baskets into the room where the Congressional committee "investigating" high prices conducted hearings in New York. The inarticulate baskets spoke volumes. One held groceries labeled with 1939 prices, the other held the 1947 equivalent. The increase was 300%. Federated Pictures

Williams-for-Senate Appeal Issued in N. Y.

NEW YORK, Oct. 2 - Appealing to the voters of the 23rd Senatorial District for the election of Robert Williams, the Socialist Workers Party campaign committee issued a statement today denouncing the crimes of Big Business and its political accomplices against the American workers. The following are excerpts from the statement:

A gigantic holdup is taking place before our very eyes today. A handful of capitalists are shaking down the working people for the biggest profit haul in the history of the country.

This crime is an inside job. The door was opened for the thieves of Big Business by a Democratic President, a Republican Governor and Bi-Partisan Legislatures in Washington and Albany. But is was not enough to lift the ceilings off prices and rents. . . .

Against the protests of millions the capitalist politicians complied with Wall Street's demands by enacting the Taft-Hartley Bill. This Slave Labor Law ties the organizations of 15 million workers in a legal knot by court suits, injunctions and other paralyzing methods.

The American people suffer under the worst oppression they have known since the Slave Power was destroyed in the Civil War.

The Democratic President threatens the railroad workers with the Army. The Republican Governor uses state troopers to bar the doors of the state capitol to a workers delegation protesting high rents and high prices. The Bi-Partisan Congress passes the "loyalty" law which puts a Gestapo over the shoulder of every federal employee. And the Bi-Partisan legislature in Albany outlaws strikes of state and city employees.

Except for Negroes in the South few feel this oppression more keenly than the people of Harlem. Prices rise faster and higher in Harlem than almost anywhere else. Here landlords gouge tenants with exorbitant rentals for rat-infested fire-traps which breed disease and shut out the sunlight and the air. The housing shortage is twice as severe because the residents are trapped. Condemned by Jim Crow barriers, restrictive covenants and racial discrimination they are forced to remain in the Harlem Ghetto —New York's Number One Concentration Camp.

This discrimination is legal — more legal than lynching in Georgia. It was approved by the Republican legislature in Albany when it adopted special legislation to permit the Democratic New York City Council to grant the Jim Crow Metropolitan Life Housing development a $50,000,000 tax exemption.

The Socialist Workers Party has entered this campaign to fight the election of another accomplice of Big Business to the legislature.

The Socialist Workers Party has entered this campaign to organize the struggle against the profiteering corporations, against the greedy real estate interests, against the "boom and bust" Wall Street gang, against the imperialist plans for a Third World War, against the Jim Crow system.

A vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidate is a vote to end capitalist exploitation, to make the workers masters in their own house, to establish a Workers and Farmers government and usher in a Socialist Society of peace, plenty and full equality.

Vote for Robert Williams, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Senate.

Spirited Detroit Mayor Campaign Moves to Finish

DETROIT, Oct. 1—The Socialist Workers Party's spirited campaign to nominate Howard Lerner for Mayor in the Oct. 7 primaries moved toward a fighting finish this week as the SWP candidate spoke at a public forum sponsored by the joint PAC committees of the East Side UAW-CIO locals, lashed out at Governor Sigler on the housing situation and prepared for his radio speech over Station WJLB on Oct. 5 at 9 P.M.

In his speech at the PAC forum, Lerner placed the blame for the housing crisis on the profit system and charged that the real estate sharks and profiteers in Detroit were the main bottleneck to the solution of the housing shortage in this city.

Several other mayoralty candidates spoke, and the CIO-endorsed Council candidates were introduced. Ernest Mazey, Briggs local PAC chairman, chaired the meeting.

Lerner had wired a demand to Governor Sigler for action by this week's special session of the Legislature on the pressing problems of rent control and evictions. This week Lerner released the text of Sigler's reply and a blistering attack on the governor for his evasive answer.

"With 400 evictions weekly in the city of Detroit, and winter approaching, the honorable governor asks the homeless to wait for the January session of the Legislature before rent controls and evictions will be placed on the agenda," Lerner points out. 'By January snow and sleet will cover the heads of these evicted families. The 'few weeks' difference Sigler refers to are in reality the three months of cold, rain and snow of October, November and December.

"Governor Sigler claims he does not want to cause 'undue hardships' to the rural members of the Legislature. May I remind the honorable governor that these legislators were elected to office and are being paid, with taxes taken from the people, to enact laws in the interest of the people, and not to manage their farms and estates?

"While you, Governor Sigler, will enjoy a warm and comfortable Christmas at your home on Mackinac Island or at your suite in the Olds Hotel in Lansing, thousands will be on the streets of Detroit without shelter because of your treacherous role on behalf of the eral estate and banking interests of Michigan.

"The only solution to the housing crisis is to declare a state of emergency in Michigan and issue a moratorium on evictions, enact a rent freeze and immediately begin construction of low-rent housing."

In addition to his radio address on Oct. 5, Lerner will be the main speaker at the Detroit SWP election rally to be held the same evening at 7 P. M.

SWP Candidate in San Francisco Race

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 29—Frank A. Barbaria, the only working class candidate for Mayor of San Francisco in the Nov. 4 elections, filed his affidavit last week. Surrounded by a group of his supporters he filled out the necessary forms before Registrar E. R. Faucompre at City Hall, thus opening his campaign.

A member of the Socialist Workers Party, candidate Barbaria stressed the need for the working class to enter into independent class politics. "We advocate the formation of an Independent Labor Party," he said to the press, "where labor can nominate and elect candidates who come from labor's ranks and who are responsible to labor. The old line conception of supporting your so-called friends and defeating your enemies has failed miserably. Labor is in a weaker position now than in many years. We had hoped that the AFL and CIO would sponsor their own candidates this year, and we were ready to give them full support. But since they have not done so, we will center our campaign around this major point."

The full program which will be carried to the workers in all parts of the city reads: "Municipal low cost housing; elimination of the sales tax (tax the rich — not the poor); union committees to reorganize transportation; against racial and political discrimination; for consumer-union committees to investigate the high cost of living (open employers' books); for building labor's own party responsible to labor; for Socialism."

Frank Barbaria was born in San Jose, Calif., in 1914 and has lived in this state all his life. A resident of San Francisco since 1923 he was educated at Monroe Grammar School and Mission High, completing his education in junior electrical engineering in 1932.

Entering the labor movement at the age of 20, Barbaria participated in the union organizing drive at Union Iron Works, and was a member of the strike committee during the 1936 bitter 10-week strike. After being blacklisted by the company because of his union activities, he joined the Sailors Union of the Pacific where he has since taken part in all major struggles of the union for better wages and working conditions.

An active fighter for Socialism since 1934, Barbaria has been a firm defender of working class rights. He believes that experience will convince the workers that the only way out of the blind alley of capitalist exploitation, depressions and atomic war is the establishment of a Workers and Farmers Government which will then be able to build a world of peace and plenty for all.

Many Lessons n Jackie Robinson's Story

By George Lavan

The Yankee-Dodgers battle will stand out in baseball history because for the first time n a world series a Negro player, Jackie Robinson, will be on he diamond.

Robinson's success in entering a field previously barred to his race does not mean that Jim Crow has vanished from professional baseball nor that he was iven an equal chance. On the ontrary, he had to be much better than good enough to qualify as big league player; he had to surmount hostility and obstacles no other rookie ever faced.

The decision of the Brooklyn Dodgers' owners to hire a Negro player was not based on idealism, but on profits. The advent of star talian and Jewish players had swelled the gate receipts; similarly, t was realized, the addition of a Negro player would draw thousands of new customers.

This box-office fact has been known for many years. Yet no team would hire such outstanding Negro stars as Paige the pitcher, Gibson the catcher and many others.

The baseball magnates had often blamed the fans for their own refusal to admit Negroes. But the fans' enthusiastic reception of Robinson this year indicated that they were far ahead of the team owners in wanting to end baseball Jim Crow. As a matter of fact, it was the pressure of the Negro people and their organizations, and the change in the social atmosphere created during the last generation by the rise of the CIO, that made possible the so-called Robinson "experiment."

When Robinson was sent to the International League's Montreal Club for seasoning, he met tremendous obstacles. Instead of comradeship with his teammates, he found hostility. The explanation for this, of course, was that he was taking "a white man's job." Robinson spoke only when spoken to and remained throughout a target for insults by opponent players and lily white spectators.

In Jim Crow Baltimore he was viciously booed. In Syracuse the opposing team put a black cat out on the field as he went to bat. At the close of the season Robinson was on the point of a nervous breakdown from the mental torture to which he had been subjected. But his playing record didn't show it. He led the International League with a batting average of .349 and his club won the pennant.

This year, when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, a set of rules were fixed specially for him. Such rules had never been inflicted on any other player. He could not beef against an umpire's decision. If insulted by another player, he had to remain silent. He had to leave the ballpark by a secret exit. Also forbidden were social invitations from white or Negro friends, writing newspaper articles and so on.

In addition to encountering hostility from players and umpires, Robinson was also attacked by some bigoted sports writers. Many of these attacks were carefully worded incitements to violence—spiking and bean balls—against him. Others implied that he was cowardly and was hiding behind the cry of "prejudice" to avoid the physical hazards of a rough and tumble game.

On tour with the Dodgers Robinson confronted not only the coldness of teammates but the humiliation all Negroes are subjected to in restaurants and hotels in this country. In St. Louis and Philadelphia (starting point of the "Freedom Train") he was denied lodging with the rest of the team.

From the dugout the Phillies' manager, Chapman, hurled filthy insults at Robinson. The "sportsmen" among the St. Louis Cards threatened a strike to drive Robinson from the big leagues. Several times he was savagely spiked out of sheer viciousness.

Despite ceaseless persecution, this rookie turned in a performance spectacular in baseball annals. Nor was he aided by any special favors from the manager. He was assigned to first base, a position he had never played before. As is well known this is a southpaw's position and there have only been a few great right-handed first basemen in baseball history. Robinson, a right-hander, had to change his whole playing technique.

Nevertheless his performance was a major factor in giving the Dodgers the margin of victory necessary to win the pennant. Robinson led the National League in bases stolen. He is also considered the cleverest bunter in the sport.

Robinson's brilliant first season in the major leagues is to be hailed as another victory for the Negro people in their forward march against job discrimination. It has an excellent educational effect not only on bigoted lily white players but on bigoted fans as well, who are being forced to abandon some of their prejudices concerning alleged Negro inferiority. This is all to the good.

However, one swallow doesn't make a summer and the baseball magnates must not be permitted to make Robinson a token representative of "equal" opportunity in the big leagues. The big leagues must be opened to every player with the necessary skill without regard to race or religion.

Jackie Robinson's entry into the major leagues dramatically demonstrates how a Negro player's talents can enrich a sport. But this is a lone example in a small field. The free and unrestricted entry of the Negro people into all the cultural and economic life of the nation, would enable more talented men and women to come to the fore.

How many Frederick Douglasses, George Washington Carvers, Marian Andersons; how many Negro Edisons, Burbanks and Mayos is this country deprived of because of the reactionary system of race discrimination?